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KINDERGARTEN BIBLE STORIES



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MOSES AND PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

Kindergarten Bible Stories

The Old Testament Adapted
for Little Children

By

LAURA ELLA CRAGIN

*Author of "Kindergarten Stories for the
Sunday School and Home"*



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*To my father,
kindest and most patient of critics,
this book is gratefully dedicated.*

Preface

IN the cathedral of Sainte Gudule, in Brussels, there is a wonderful pulpit exquisitely carved from wood, which represents the expulsion from the Garden of Eden. The tree is shown from which Adam and Eve are being driven by the angel with the flaming sword, while grinning Death, new-born, lurks in the background. About the tree are wound the huge coils of a great serpent. Above, a beautiful angel, representing the Virgin, holds the little hand of a wonderful Child, whose tiny foot rests on the great head of the serpent. "It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel." This message of hope and comfort in that sad hour of man's downfall came to me with a new meaning, filling my eyes with tears.

Do we not in this first glimpse into the story of mankind get a suggestion of life's deepest significance? Sin is there, sorrow and grief, also, but out of the struggle, forth from the bitterness, man is to emerge, stainless, free; and to lead him onward and upward comes the little Child. How to tell aright the message this holy Child would teach is a problem laid upon the hearts and consciences of all mothers and teachers. We do

long to give the whole story honestly and justly, and yet we desire to show always the love in the Father's heart.

It is said of Eugene Field that "he climbed to God on little children's love." I feel that his wonderful experience has been mine, also, for a new revelation of God and His message to us has come to me through my work with the children. The Old Testament has never seemed so beautiful or so replete with meaning as since I have studied it with reference to teaching it to them. To bring before them the wonders of God's creation, to awaken their ideals through the great heroic characters, to show them, too, their own weakness through the failure of others has been my desire and aim.

Each story in this book has been given to my own Sunday-school Kindergarten, so I have written with an ever present consciousness of the sweet, eager little faces and the bright eyes looking into mine.

In the first stories I have endeavoured to emphasize the ultimate purpose of creation, the preparation of a world for man to inhabit. I have felt that these lessons would be more interesting if they were made largely nature stories and if the facts were drawn from the children as far as possible. The eagerness with which my own little ones responded to questions about the moon and stars, the trees and flowers, and the

different animals made these talks most enjoyable.

Indeed I always endeavour every Sunday to lead the children to speak of the beauties which are to be found in nature. Each season is filled with evidences of God's goodness and when the eyes are opened to see, and the heart is quickened to feel, one must always exclaim with Browning :

“How good is man's life, the mere living ! how fit to employ
All the heart and the soul and the senses forever in joy.”

In regard to the Old Testament stories some educators are of the opinion that they are better adapted to the needs and understanding of older children than to those of kindergarten age. But surely one cannot learn too young to love and delight in these Bible heroes. The stories need not be falsely told nor given as half-truths, though many incidents must be omitted.

It seems to me that such a terrible experience as is shown in the sacrifice of Isaac is far beyond the comprehension of a child of six. It almost staggers a mature mind to attempt to grasp God's purpose in this awful trial which He sent to His faithful servant. Was Abraham to learn in that far-away time to enter into the experience of our heavenly Father who withheld not even His only begotten Son? But the lesson in the story for us is that of unquestioning obedience, a faith to

believe that what God asks must be right for His children, and this lesson can be taught to the little ones through Abraham's immediate response to God's first call to leave home and friends and go into that far country. The long deferred birth of the promised child was another test of his faith.

The story of Hagar and Ishmael, also, it seems to me wise to omit. Its subject is one that cannot be fully explained to children and in it Abraham appeared lacking in true manhood, while Sarah's jealousy was very mean and contemptible.

I do not, however, believe that it is wise to refuse to recognize the faults which are shown in these Bible characters. The working out of good from evil, the gradual ennobling of character is the most beautiful lesson that can be taught, bringing comfort and inspiration to all of us who, conscious of our own weakness, yet do long to overcome and ultimately triumph. In studying these characters, it has been, therefore, with a feeling of deep gratitude that I have seen strength and weakness going always hand in hand. Sometimes, as in Abraham and Moses, strength was in the ascendancy, while in Jacob, the character at the beginning seemed so lacking in all true and noble qualities.

It has been suggested that I have wrongly portrayed the arrangement made by Jacob with

Laban in regard to his wages. But I have found in my study that commentators do not agree as to this matter, some maintaining that Jacob's first intention was to deal fairly and to take only the less desirable animals. Laban's removal, however, of all the spotted and ring-streaked of the flock drove his nephew to the devices he practised to still obtain his rightful hire. As there is a difference of opinion, I decided to give Jacob the benefit of the doubt, inasmuch as the earlier incidents in his life are so blameworthy.

It is apparent that the results of his first deception followed him all through life in his haunting fear of his brother and in the deception which was practised upon him first by Laban and later by his own sons. And yet it was to this faulty man that the vision of angels came and I love to remember that last scene when his much loved Joseph with all his other sons gathered about him to say farewell.

We know, also, that from the union of Jacob and Rachel, in both of whom there is much to criticise, there sprang Joseph, one of the most beautiful characters found in the Bible, who was strong in his integrity, wise and just in worldly affairs, devoted to his father and younger brother and tender and forgiving to those who had so cruelly wronged him.

And even among the wicked brothers a great change was gradually wrought, for Judah, who

proposed selling Joseph to the Ishmaelites, finally intercedes for Benjamin's freedom in a prayer that evidences a spirit of unselfishness and self-sacrifice that is truly Christlike.

The life of Moses is one of surpassing interest. The children heard with great eagerness of the child born in the darkest hour of his people's history, saved from death by almost a miracle and given the education in a foreign court which best fitted him for his later life and arduous duties. They learned, too, of his impetuous spirit, with its strong sense of justice, which led him to endeavour to free his people by his own might, and of the forty long years of quiet waiting during which he learned that man is nothing in himself, and they saw how at last he doubted his own power utterly and was with difficulty persuaded to undertake his great life work.

So greatly did I come to admire this character—strong and yet gentle, patient and meek under reproach and yet mighty in faith—that I hesitated long before deciding to tell the children of his one moment of weakness, when he, the meekest of all men, sinned through hasty speech and angry act. But it was too wonderful a lesson to withhold—that where others, and perhaps we, ourselves, consider we are most strong, just there we may fail. God's justice demanded that the sin of even His faithful servant could not go unpunished but I was glad to show the chil-

dren that the desire of his heart to enter the promised land, denied him in life, was granted as one of the joys of heaven.

My little ones enjoyed hearing of Joshua, also, who was willing to lead the people in what must have seemed a useless, if not almost ridiculous, march about Jericho, because he had learned that "to obey is better than sacrifice"; and of Gideon, who was taught that a few with God are of more avail than great multitudes.

The closing idyl of Ruth was a joy to depict. The sweet unselfishness and devoted loyalty of this lovely woman, the gentle yielding to the plans of her mother-in-law and her final reward appealed to the children. It was pleasant, too, to link her to the past history of the Israelites through Rahab, whose kindness and faith redeemed even a life of sin, and to the future through David, the poet-king and ancestor of our Lord, Himself.

The suggested illustrations will, I think, add much to the interest of the stories. Unless otherwise specified, they are all to be found in the Wilde collection, to the publishers of which the author is indebted for the privilege of reproducing such illustrations as appear in this volume. In the Perry collection are a number of pictures of Egyptian scenes which might be shown to illustrate the life of Joseph and Moses in Egypt. Photographs of the Holy Land—of Mount Sinai,

Marah and other places—would make the stories of the wandering in the wilderness more real.

Among the many authors, whose books I have consulted, I wish to express my especial indebtedness to F. B. Meyer, W. M. Taylor and Alfred Edersheim.

Readers desiring to secure copies of the illustrations indicated as illustrative of the various lessons, should order direct from the publishers, W. A. Wilde Company, 120 Boylston St., Boston, Mass., the Perry Pictures Co., Malden, Mass., and George P. Brown & Co., 38 Lovett St., Beverly, Mass.

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I

CREATION OF WATER AND EARTH

Genesis 1 : 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10

Picture—SURF ON CORNISH COAST¹

STORY

WHAT makes this great world in which we live so beautiful, children? The sunshine, the rivers and lakes, the trees and flowers, the birds and butterflies—oh, I am sure you could not tell me of everything that makes it so attractive.

I have a very wonderful story for you to-day, but I want you to help me tell it. Where do we get our clothes? Yes, some one made them. And how did we get our houses? Some one made them. And how did this beautiful church come here? Some one made it. Do you think some one made everything you have to eat and to wear and to play with? Yes, that is true. And now how do you suppose the grass and the bushes, the fountains and brooks, the birds and animals came here? Why, they too were made. But do you know of any man who could make all these wonderful things? No, indeed, I am

¹ This picture, which is found in the Brown collection, may be shown as illustrating a part of the land and water first created.

sure no one ever lived who was wise enough or great enough to do it.

It seems almost too strange to be true that there was a time when there were no lovely flowers nor tall trees, no animals and no people, but it is of this very time I want to tell you. 'Twas long, long, long ago, and even this great world had not been made, but I think that God, the dear heavenly Father, wanted some people who would love Him and whom He could love and make happy.

There must first be a home prepared in which they could live, so God made this great round world. It was very strange at first, for water was all over it. But people could not have lived in the water, could they?

God said, therefore, "Let the waters be gathered together and let the dry land appear."

Then the waters separated so the land was seen upon which man could live. Did the land all look alike? Oh, no, in some places it was flat and in others little hills arose or great mountains lifted their heads up towards the sky. The waters, too, were different; some were very large, and these were the oceans, seas and great lakes, while the smaller ones were the rivers, streams and brooks.

Have you ever watched the great waves of the ocean dash against some rocky coast, as if they would break the rocks in pieces and flow over



THE CREATION OF LIGHT

the land? But in that far away time God said, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed." We know, therefore, that, in spite of their loud roar and great power, they can only come just so far and then they must roll back again.

Do you know how the ocean or a great lake changes at different times? On some days we only hear the soft rippling of the waters, as if they loved to be quiet and peaceful. Again they are so wild and rough we are almost afraid to look at them and we are very glad the dear heavenly Father rules them and that they obey Him.

Then they are so beautiful when the sunlight dances on them or when the soft moonbeams make a silver pathway across them. Can you tell me what colours the waters have? Yes, at times they are a deep, beautiful blue or a lovely green; sometimes they are so dark they are almost black, and again violet tints are seen, while at sunset other lovely colours appear.

Over the earth God stretched the beautiful blue sky, across which the fleecy white clouds float and where, at night, we see the bright stars twinkle. We love to look up and think that somewhere above the sky is heaven, which is God's home and where we shall go some day to live with Him.

Now I am sure you can understand the story

just as it is written in the Bible, and I want to read it to you. "In the beginning God created" (or made) "the heaven and the earth. And God said, 'Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear': and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of waters called He Seas: and God saw that it was good." I know that God loves to do good and so I am sure it made Him happy to make these beautiful things—the land and the water—for us to enjoy.

II

CREATION OF LIGHT

Genesis 1 : 2-5, 14-18

Picture—THE CREATION OF LIGHT—*Doré*

STORY

You told me last Sunday, children, what you could see when you went out-of-doors. What was it that helped you to see all those things? Your eyes? Yes, they do help, but if you should go into a dark closet and shut the door, could you see anything? No, though you would still have your eyes. Then what is it that helps you to see? Why, yes, the bright sun.

Do you know that in that far-away time, of which I told you last Sunday, there was no sun, so everything was dark. But God knew that the people for whom He was making this great round world would not be happy if they had to stay in the dark all the time, so He said, "Let there be light," and the beautiful light appeared.

I think at first perhaps it was a soft rosy glow such as one can see sometimes in the early morning, and then it grew brighter and brighter until at last the great golden sun shone in the sky.

What do you think God called the time when

it was light? Yes, just what we call it now, day. And when it was dark He called it night.

How do you know when to go to bed? You or your mamma look at the clock, do you not? But long ago there were no clocks, and how do you think people could tell time then? Why, the sun was the first clock. Isn't that strange? When they saw it in the east, people knew that it was morning, and when it stood right above them it was noon, while when it was in the west, they knew that it was afternoon.

Sometimes it helps us to tell time even now, does it not? It shines so brightly in the morning and seems to say: "Time to get up! Time to get up! See what a beautiful, bright day I have brought you."

Or mamma will say, "The sun has gone to bed and it is time my little child went, too."

The sun helps us tell time in another way, also. When the sunbeams come early in the morning and stay late in the evening and are very warm, what season is it? Yes, summer. And when do we have winter? When they come late and go early, so 'tis dark at breakfast time and again when we eat dinner. The sun helps us, you see, tell when the months and seasons come just as well as the days.

We love the sunshine and yet we should love the darkness, also. We could not sleep so well nor so restfully, I am sure, if our room were as

bright at night as it is in the day. I think the dear Father knew that after little children had worked and played all day, they would be very tired. He planned, therefore, to have the darkness come, so they might have a long, restful sleep and be bright and fresh for the next beautiful day. The animals need the rest, too, and even the flowers would not grow so well if the sun shone all the time. Some of them close their pretty eyes at night just as little children do and wait for the sunbeams to waken them.

Now tell me some of the things the sun does for us. It brings the light so we can see, it makes us warm and helps us to grow, it tells us the time of the day and year and makes the world bright and beautiful for us to enjoy.

Do you know the pretty story of a little sunbeam who tried to find the dark? She looked in the meadows, down under the trees and even in the corners of the house, but she could find only bright places. At night when she went back to her father, the sun, she told him that she had looked everywhere but she could not find any dark spot. He laughed, as he kissed her, and said:

“ ‘Of course you couldn’t, dear golden head,¹

Why, ’tis the truth, as every one knows,—

There is no dark, where a sunbeam goes!’ ”

¹ Adapted from “The Stroll-Away Sunbeam,” by Agnes Lee, in “Child-Garden,” used by kind permission of Mumford and Company, owners of the copyright.

We, too, can be like the sunbeams, children.
Let us sing :

“ Darkness, darkness, flee away,¹
This is what the sunbeams say,
When they come at dawn of day,
Bringing light and gladness.

CHORUS.

“ I would be a merry sunbeam shining,
Shining all the day ;
Clouds and darkness I would scatter
With my brightest ray.

“ Little deeds of love I'll do,
Words I'll speak so kind and true,
Thus I'll be the whole day through,
Like a sunbeam shining.”—CHORUS.

Did you know that the sun is really shining all the time up in the sky ? Even on dark days, it is still there, though the clouds hide it from us, but we can be sure that, when they go away, we shall see it again. At night, too, it is there, but as our great world turns around, the sun is hidden from us and then it shines on the little Chinese children, who live on the other side. But when the world turns again, they have the darkness and the sun shines once more on us. Isn't this very strange ? When you are older, you will understand it better.

Did God make anything else to shine in the

¹ From “Sunbeam Song,” by Mrs. A. C. Blodgett. Used by kind permission of owner of copyright, P. W. Blackmer, Oak Park, Illinois.

sky besides the sun? Yes, He made the lovely moon and the stars, too. Does the moon always look the same? No, sometimes we see only a part of it, which looks like a cradle or a bow, but night by night, it grows larger and larger until it looks quite round. Then it grows smaller again until we can no longer see it.

We have a round, or full moon every month, so the Indians tell time thus. Instead of saying, "We will take a journey next month," they say, "We will go next moon," or, "It has been so many moons since that happened."

How beautiful the moonlight is! Have you seen it sparkling on the snow so brightly that there seemed to be diamonds shining all over the ground? How good God was to give us the lovely moon.

How many stars did He make for us, children? More than we can count and they are beautiful, also, and help us in many ways. Let us sing:

Can you count the stars that brightly ¹
Twinkle in the evening sky?
Can you count the clouds that lightly,
Every day go floating by?
God, the Lord, doth mark their number,
With His eyes that never slumber:
All the stars and clouds He knoweth,
He hath made them every one.

¹ Adapted from "Canst Thou Count the Stars?" in "Songs and Games for Little Ones," by Misses Walker and Jenks, by kind permission of Oliver Ditson Company.

Now I want to read you what the Bible says about the light. "And God said, 'Let there be light': and there was light. And God saw the light that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years'" (that means that they should help people tell time): "'and let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth:' and it was so. And God made the two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good."

(Selections from Haydn's "Creation" might be sung to the children in connection with these opening stories. The recitatives, "And God Said, Let There Be Lights," and "In Splendour Bright" would be beautiful to emphasize the creation of light. This subject could easily be divided and used on two Sundays, if it proves too long.)

III

CREATION OF VEGETATION

Genesis 1: 11, 12

Picture—SPRING—*Knaus*¹

STORY

WHEN God first made the earth, it was all bare and brown. Nothing grew on it to make it look pretty. But God wanted a beautiful world for people to live in, so what do you think He made? Yes, trees and bushes, grasses and flowers.

Can you tell me the names of some of the trees? Oaks, maples, elms and willows. How tall they are and how lovely their leaves look as they rustle in the wind! What do they do for us? When it is very warm in the summer, don't you like to go into the woods? The trees stand so closely together that their leaves keep the hot sunbeams out and thus make a nice, cool place.

The leaves, too, give us pleasure because they are so pretty. What colour are they in the summer time? Yes, a lovely green. When Jack

¹ This picture may be shown to illustrate some of the flowers spoken of in the story. It is found in the Perry collection, as is also the one suggested for use with the talk on birds. In this same collection are many beautiful coloured pictures of fish, corals, starfish, etc., which may be shown to illustrate the talk on fish.

Frost comes, what colours does he paint them? Red, yellow, orange and brown, so they look like a flower garden.

Can you think of other trees which help us by giving us food? The fruit trees—apple, pear, peach and cherry. How lovely their delicate blossoms look in the spring time and what beautiful colours the fruit has. Can you tell me a fruit that is red? orange? yellow? green? blue? purple?

Then what else do we get from the trees? What is this chair made of and this table and this floor? Wood, which comes from the trees, does it not? Tell me something else made of wood. I am sure you can think of many things. So you see the trees are not only beautiful but very useful, also.

Tell me of other things which God made to grow in the ground. Yes, bushes and vines, and some of these have fruit, too. What fruit grows on bushes? Currants, raspberries and blackberries. And what grows on vines? Grapes and strawberries. Then some bushes have lovely flowers such as roses, lilacs and syringas, while honeysuckle, clematis and wisteria grow on vines.

What beautiful carpet did God spread over the ground? Yes, the grass. How restful and cool its bright green is! It is good for food, too, though we do not eat it. But God knew that when He made the animals, they must be fed.

What animals eat the grass? Horses, cows, sheep and goats. In the woods there is often another kind of carpet made of lovely mosses—green, silvery gray and other colours.

Besides the trees and bushes, vines and grasses, what did God make? All the flowers, and how bright and beautiful they are! They are of many colours, are they not? Can you tell me some yellow ones? Dandelions, buttercups, daffodils, tulips. Red ones? Roses, geraniums, poppies. Purple? Violets and hyacinths. White? Lilies, daisies, anemones. We could not begin to name them all.

I wonder if you have heard the story about one dear little flower that we all love. It was a tiny blossom and it couldn't remember very well, for do you know it even forgot its own name. Wouldn't it be funny if you should forget whether your name was Helen or Gladys or Elizabeth! The story says that when the dear Father came to this little flower, she hung her head and said:

“‘The name Thou gavest me

Alas! I have forgot.’

The Father kindly smiled on her

And said, ‘Forget-me-not.’”

When the winter came and those first flowers and grasses withered and died, did the dear Father have to make new ones? No, for this is the wonderful part. Before it went to sleep in

the fall, each flower had some little babies and the next spring these grew into other flowers. What do we call these flower babies? Yes, the seeds. Sometimes they are tucked into long cradles like those of the sweet-peas, and sometimes they are fastened to little arrows, as are the dandelions. The milkweed seeds grow on downy puffballs while those of the morning-glory are hidden in little boxes.

These babies are of many different kinds and the cradles, too, are very unlike, but each little baby, when it grows into a flower, looks just like its mamma. Its shape, colour and perfume are like hers, so we have the same dear blossoms year after year.

Can you tell me anything else that has seeds, besides the flowers? Why, yes, the trees. What do we call the oak-tree babies? Acorns, and I am sure you have all played with them and with their dear little cradles. What kind of cradles do the apple-tree seeds lie in? In the apples, do they not? When you eat a rosy apple, there are the cunning black darlings tucked away inside and, if you should plant them, apple-trees would grow. Oranges, plums, strawberries,—all the fruits have the seeds inside of them in just this way.

It is so with the nuts, also, which come on trees. If planted, these would grow into hickory, walnut and chestnut trees and the hazelnuts into

bushes. Wasn't it wonderful that when God made the flowers, grasses and trees, He planned that they should have these babies, so there might always be blossoms, green grass and beautiful trees every summer.

Do you know that we should not have many things to eat that we all enjoy, if it were not for the seeds. Where does our oatmeal come from? From oats, and these are the seeds of the tall stalks of oats, while the kernels of corn, which make our corn meal, and the wheat, from which our bread is made, are also seeds. There are so many, many of these seeds that, though we eat a great number, there are plenty more to grow.

These grains—the wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley—are out in the fields, and can you tell me what grows in the garden that we like to eat? Yes, all the vegetables. Some God made to hide away in the ground, such as potatoes, turnips, parsnips and radishes, while cabbages, lettuce and parsley are found close to the ground, and squashes, tomatoes, beans and peas grow on vines. You see that God planned that all these beautiful things which grow should give food to both people and animals.

Would you like now to listen to this same story as the Bible tells it? “And God said, ‘Let the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, wherein is the seed thereof, upon the earth’”

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(that means that every plant and tree should have seed babies): "and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after their kind: and God saw that it was good."

(The exquisite aria, "With Verdure Clad," from the "Creation," might be given at this time.)

IV

CREATION OF FISH

Genesis 1 : 20, 21, 22

STORY

WE have talked of the land which God made, and of the beautiful trees and bushes, grasses and flowers. But it was all very still and there were none to enjoy all this beauty. There was not a bird to sing in the trees nor a fish to swim in the streams. No animals roamed through the forests and no people gathered the flowers and fruits, so God made creatures who would be happy in His new world.

First of all He made those which live in the water, and what do we call them? Yes, fishes. Can you tell me the names of some? Minnows, bass, trout, whitefish—we could not begin to give them all.

Do they have arms and legs, as we do? No, but instead they have fins at the side which balance them, that means keep them from falling over, and with these and their tails, which are fins, also, they swim. Have you watched a fish as it rapidly moved its tail and was thus pushed forward?

What shape are fishes' bodies usually? Long

and narrow, and this helps them to go swiftly through the water. What have they that you have? Yes, mouths which are usually very large. They have eyes and, tucked away out of sight, ears, also. Then they have noses with which they smell their food, but they do not use them for breathing, as we do ours. Shall I tell you how a fish does breathe? When we bathe or swim, we try to keep the water out of our mouths, as it would choke us, but the water helps the fish to breathe. He has gills on each side of his head, with little covers which open and shut. As he swims, he fills his mouth with water, then, after he has taken all the air from it, he sends it out through his gills. Isn't that a strange way to breathe? If you watch a goldfish in a globe, you can see the little covers opening and shutting.

Can you tell me what clothing the fish wears? It certainly does not look like ours, nor is it made of fur like the bear's, nor of wool like the sheep's, nor of hair like the horse's. Instead the fish's skin is covered with little shiny pieces called scales, which lap one over another as do tiles on the roof of a house. These scales look somewhat like your finger nails. They grow out of small pockets in the skin and are so hard and fit so closely together that they protect the fish from the water and from rough treatment. They are like the armour which the knights used to wear to keep them safe from harm. They are often

of very beautiful colours, such as gold, scarlet and blue.

When God made the first fishes, in that far-away time of which we have been talking, He told them to multiply and fill the waters in the seas, that means that they were to have babies, like the plants and trees, which should grow up to take their places when they died.

Did you know that some fishes make nests as the birds do? One kind, called by such a funny name—stickleback—builds a nest out of grass and reeds, which he gums together with a kind of glue he has in his body. It is round like a tiny muff, with a little door at each end. When mamma stickleback has laid the eggs, she leaves the papa to take care of them. He watches very carefully, lest they should be stolen by some other fish. When the baby fishes come out of the eggs, he guards them, also, and keeps them from swimming away until they are old enough to take care of themselves. Then they all swim off together and have a fine frolic.

Other fish make nests of cockle-shells and still others form them of seaweed, while some catfish papas carry the eggs about in their mouths until the babies come out. But most fish lay their eggs in the sand, or among the rocks or seaweed, and there are so many that even though some are destroyed, there will still be a great number of little ones.

How happy and free fishes are! They love to race and play tag, I am sure, just as you do, and have merry times as they dart swiftly here and there.

Just think how many different ones God made, from the tiny minnow to the great shark. The whales, too, were made to live in the sea, though they are really water animals, and not fishes. They are most wonderful and I hope you may all see some of them. They cannot live all the time beneath the water, as most fishes do, but have to come to the top to breathe. When I crossed the ocean, I was always interested in seeing the great spouts of water thrown up by these creatures, which looked like fountains.

Though so large, the whale is a tender, loving mother. She gives her little one milk, just as the cow does her calf, and if any danger threatens, she will take it under her fin and fight for it, even giving her life sometimes in her effort to keep it safe.

Besides the fishes, of which we have been speaking, I want to tell you of other little creatures which God made to live in the water. How many of you have been to the seashore? Did you find pretty shells there? I know you loved to play with them and make chains to wear about your neck. Do you know that each of those shells, even the very tiniest, was once the home of some little creature? Those little beings

were so soft and small that they would soon have been destroyed, had they not built shell houses, in which they could be quite safe.

Many of these homes have several rooms, for, as the tiny creature grew, and its first home became too small, it added on another room. The oysters, periwinkles, mussels, cockles, snails and many others build these shell houses and they are of many different shapes and colours.

The most curious little shell-covered creatures I have seen are the barnacles, which fasten themselves to rocks or the bottom of boats. I loved to watch as the tide brought the water to them. Their little cone-shaped house had a tiny line in the centre, which was really a door. This opened and little feathery fingers, like a curl of hair, came out and felt about for food. Then the fingers went back and the wee door shut, but soon out they came again and more food was brought to the hungry mouth inside.

I wonder if you know that the chalk, with which you love to write on the blackboard, was once shells—the homes of many tiny beings. Isn't that wonderful?

Would you like to have me tell you something else that is very strange? I am sure you often use a sponge, or mamma does, when she gives you a bath. Did you know that each of those sponges was once alive and grew on the rocks in the warm, deep water of a great sea? It was all

covered over with a coat of slime and it could breathe, find its food, grow and have little ones. When growing, some sponges look like cups, some have branches like trees, while others are thin and spread out like fans. They have such lovely colours, from a brilliant orange to a rich brown.

Another creature that makes a beautiful home I am sure you all know about—the coral. At first it is a tiny being with a jelly-like body, moving about in the water, but soon it settles down on the bottom of the sea and stretches out its tentacles, or little arms, for food.

From the water it gets bits of lime, out of which it builds a sort of castle. The bottom and sides of its body become as hard as stone, while it is still alive and the little mouth at the top still eats. Isn't it all very wonderful? And such beautiful, beautiful forms as are made by these coral-builders, of red or pink or purest white! Though each is very small, when many work together, they sometimes build large islands.

Then have you seen the curious starfish? It also began with a jelly body and moved about in the water on eight thin, small rods, or legs, but after a while, a little star, with five stony arms, was formed and at last the jelly body disappeared. The starfish loves to creep slowly over the rocks and find its food, and where do you suppose its mouth is? Why right in the centre of

the under part of its body ! Isn't that a funny place ?

I wish I could tell you many other curious things about the starfish, but I want to speak of one more little creature that started life like these others with a jelly body. It, too, had long, thin rods, all pointing one way, but after a while a tiny round box, covered with prickles, began to form over it, the jelly body and rods disappeared, and there was a curious little sea urchin, which loved to hide itself in rocky pools or among the seaweed.

There are many other creatures which live in the water—the lobsters and crabs ; the sea-anemones, which look like lovely flowers ; and the curious jellyfish, which make the sea glow at night as if it were on fire. Then there are the frogs, too, which spend part of their time on land, though they begin life as tadpoles and live in the water. You will find them all interesting, and I know you will be glad that God made so many wonderful creatures.

V

CREATION OF BIRDS

Genesis 1 : 20, 21, 22

Picture—BLACK-CHINNED HUMMING-BIRD

STORY

AFTER God had made the fishes to live in the water, what do you think He made to fly in the air? Yes, the birds. I think the tall trees were glad when these little feathered friends were made, who sang so sweetly and built pretty nests in their branches. It was pleasant for the birds to have the branches to rest upon and to hold their nests and the leaves to shield them from the hot sun. They helped the trees, too, for they ate the caterpillars and other insects which would have destroyed the leaves.

Tell me the names of some of the birds you know best. Do you love to watch their bright colours and hear their sweet songs? I am very sure you do. How wonderfully God made these little creatures! Though most of them are very small, still they can do something that we cannot do. Can you tell me what this is? Yes, they can fly. Some of them go very rapidly—the swallows can travel more than a mile a minute, as fast as our fast trains.

Most of them take long, long journeys every spring and fall and I will tell you why they do this. But first tell me what the birds eat. Bugs, grasshoppers, caterpillars, grains, seeds and fruits. Can they find this food when it is cold? No, so they fly south where 'tis always warm and where there is plenty for them to eat. Is it not wonderful that they know where to go and that they come back to the same places at just the same time every year? When we hear the honk, honking of the geese, as they fly high above our heads, or listen to a bluebird's sweet song or a robin's gay "cheer up," we know that spring is really here. The papa birds often come first, and I am sure they watch very eagerly for the mammas to follow.

You know we talked of the plant babies—the little seeds which come in every plant, and last Sunday we heard of the eggs from which the little fishes grow. When God made the birds, He planned that they, too, should have babies.

But before the little ones come, the papa and mamma have to get the nest ready, the dear little cradle to keep them safe and warm. The different birds know just what kind of nest to build for their babies and the very best place to put it. The robins build theirs in the trees and the song-sparrows on the ground; the pigeons put theirs together loosely, while that of the orioles is woven so closely that no wind or rain can get in.

J

The woodpecker is like a carpenter and bores his home out of the wood of a tree, and one bird, which lives in India, sews leaves together to make his nest, taking real stitches, so he is called the tailor-bird.

I wish you might all see two little nests that I have near me, as I write this story. One is a phœbe-bird's, made of dainty bits of green moss, plastered firmly together, while hairs and thread and ravellings of wool make it soft inside. The birdies built it just over the window of a friend's house and plastered it so firmly to the wall that when they had left it, my friend had to cut it off with a knife.

It was so small inside that there wasn't much room for the four babies when they grew big, and their little heads and much of their bodies could be seen above it. One day it rained and the poor mother had such hard work keeping her darlings dry. She spread her wings wide but there was no room for her to cuddle down in the nest, so she had to hover over it. But she was very patient and loving, as all bird mothers are, and stayed with her little ones until the rain ceased.

The other nest is even prettier. It came from California and was made by the tiniest of all birds, the humming-birds, and is only large enough to hold two of my fingers. 'Tis fastened to a branch of a tree, which has long leaves with

very sharp points, and this tree has such a funny name, monkey-puzzle tree! I think the monkeys would indeed be both puzzled and pricked, did they try to climb it. The birdies chose it because they knew it would be a safe place for their nestlings. It is made of pretty soft gray moss and lined with cotton and is the daintiest, cosiest cradle you could imagine.

Some of these humming-birds come to us during the summer and it is such a joy to watch their swift motions as they dart first here, then there, burying their long needle-like bills in the cups of coral honeysuckle or the red columbine to get the drops of nectar or the tiny insects. They like red and orange flowers best, so our trumpet vines, with their orange-lined red blossoms, the bright cannas, gladioli and salvias are some of their favourites.

God not only taught the birds when to fly south and how to build their nests, but He also made the mamma birds willing to sit quietly for many days on the eggs, while the papas brought them food and sang to them. When the wee babies come, papa and mamma both know that they must work hard to fill the hungry little mouths and to teach the birdlings to fly, when they grow bigger. They love their little ones just as your dear papa and mamma love you. They not only work hard to make the nest comfortable and to feed their babies but they also

keep them safe from all harm, driving away birds bigger than themselves and sometimes even giving their lives, trying to keep them from danger.

How much pleasure the birdies give us by their beautiful songs ! One summer I lived in a little log cabin, on the shores of one of our great lakes, with tall forest trees all about. The birds were our nearest neighbours and gave us constant delight. One dear little song-sparrow would sit on the top branch of a tree in front of our door and lifting his head as though he were thanking the dear heavenly Father, he would pour forth the sweetest of songs.

Then, as the sun set, we would wander through the lovely, woodsy paths to hear the hermit thrushes sing. The clear, liquid notes, in which they told their love to each other, were the most beautiful music I ever heard.

But all the birds did not have musical voices. The "tshe, tshe, tshe" of the oven-bird, rising from low notes to those high and shrill, was not pleasant to hear, while the cawing of the crows often disturbed us. One of our friends thought the little ones said, "Paw, paw ; maw, maw."

Once several crows were holding a party outside my window in the early morning, and when I suddenly looked out of it, their alarmed cries, as they flew away, were very funny. I fancied

they said, " Mercy, mercy, she's after us ! She's after us ! "

Now can you tell me of some birds which like to swim and float on the water. Yes, ducks and geese and the lovely white swans. Some of these live on the farm and what others do we find there? Chickens, turkeys, and peacocks, which have such beautiful tails. What do the hens give us? How good the eggs are to eat and how many nice things are made from them.

If I had time I should like to tell you of some strange large birds—the storks, which build their houses in the chimney and bring good luck, the Holland people think ; the cranes, which fly back and forth across the sea every year and carry on their backs many hundreds of little birds which would find the journey too long and hard ; and the large ostriches, which carry men as swiftly as horses do here. But you must get some one else to tell you all these interesting stories.

Now shall we read what the Bible says about the fish and birds? " And God said, ' Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.' And God created the great sea-monsters, and every living creature that moveth, wherewith the waters swarmed, after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind : and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, ' Be fruitful, and multiply,

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and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' " This means that God planned, when He made the fish and birds, that they should all have little ones, so there should be many, many birds and many, many fish of all kinds.

VI

CREATION OF ANIMALS

Genesis 1: 24, 25

Picture—AN INTERESTING FAMILY—*Carter*¹

STORY

CAN you tell me what creatures God made first, children? Yes, the fish and then the birds. What do you think was made next? All the animals and many of them are very useful. I am sure we should not find the world half so pleasant without them.

Which one takes you on fine rides, which gives you milk, and from which does the wool come that your warm clothes are made of? Then what dear little playmate lives in the house and loves to have you stroke her soft fur, and which one wags his tail to show how glad he is to see you and romps and runs races with you? What good friends they all are and how much happiness God planned for us when He made them!

There are many, many different kinds of animals, just as there are many different fish and birds. Can you tell me which is the tallest? Yes, the giraffe. Just think he can reach up and bite a leaf off the top of quite a tall tree. How

¹ This picture is in the Brown collection.

funny he looks with his long fore legs and his shorter hind ones, and his small head perched at the end of his long neck. But his eyes are large, soft and dark and his skin is beautiful, of a pale yellow with brown spots. When he is at home, in the African forest, it protects him from being seen, as he looks like the trees which are bright with sunshine or dark with shadows.

What is another big animal? The elephant is one of the largest and he is very useful, too. In India and Africa, where there are many of these great beasts, they take the place of horses and can, of course, do much heavier work because they are so strong.

They are very gentle, too. If a man wishes to ride on one, he makes a motion with his hand and then the elephant takes him up carefully with his trunk and places him on his back. Sometimes as many as twenty persons ride at once and the elephant is very careful not to jostle them and, if he is passing through a forest, not to go under low trees where the branches would brush them off. He is very faithful and honest, and do you know he not only pushes loads and piles up great logs but he even helps in building.

What big flopping ears he has and what kind eyes. How curious is his long trunk, which is really his hand and arm, with which he can pick up a peanut or tear up a great tree, stroke some **one** he loves or knock down an enemy. Then

how beautiful are his white tusks, the largest teeth that any creature has. I know you like to see these great beasts in the parks or in a menagerie.

Another large animal is the buffalo, whose horns are so sharp that they make a terrible weapon and whose long, shaggy hair covers only the front part of his body. The buffalo skin makes a very warm covering and we use it for robes in our sleighs, while the Indians make leggings and other clothing from it.

Among the big animals are two that have such funny names—the rhinoceros and hippopotamus—have you ever heard of them? The rhinoceros is such a strange, clumsy looking beast, with a single horn growing straight up from the middle of his nose, tough, thick skin and just three toes on each of his big feet. The hippopotamus is even more clumsy on the land than the rhinoceros, but he spends most of his time in the water where he can swim and dive so well that he is often called the river-horse. He has a thick neck, broad shoulders and great teeth.

All these animals—the elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros and hippopotamus—like to eat grass and tender green plants, just as the horse and cow do, so you see the loving heavenly Father made these plants not only that the world might be beautiful for us, but also that the animals might have food.

Were all the animals large? Oh, no, God

made them of different sizes. Can you tell me the name of one of the smallest? Yes, the little mouse. What sharp teeth it has, with which it can gnaw holes in boxes or through doors. Mice are very bright little creatures and they can be trained to do many cunning tricks. Sometimes they push little wheelbarrows or they are hitched up like horses to a tiny carriage and run all about with it.

Even without being trained, they do quite wonderful things. A friend of mine saw a little mouse carry an egg all the way down-stairs without breaking it. Mr. Burroughs, who has written many interesting things about animals, tells of a mouse which was kept as a pet, which used to climb up on its glass of water, sit on the rim and putting both little paws down and scooping up a big double-handful of water, wash its face and head.

The little field-mice are very pretty, with their large, bright eyes and little white feet. They are very busy gathering nuts, cherry-pits and grain and storing them away for winter use in hollow trees or holes in the ground. In our little cabin in the woods, of which I spoke in my last story, we used sometimes to see these little creatures and often at night we could hear them running about. Once I left a number of peanuts in a dish and the next morning they were all gone. We found them in such funny places, in boxes,

behind doors and even in our shoes, where the mice had hidden them.

Did you know that there are jumping-mice, which are so called because they can take long leaps? They have a buff coat and long whiskers and hide so well that they are seldom caught.

What other little animals store up food to use in the winter? The squirrels, which I know you have all seen. In the city where I live there are many of them and they are so tame that they will eat out of the children's hands or boys' pockets. They chatter and scold, when anything annoys them and whisk their tails. 'Tis great fun to see them play tag, chasing each other here and there, from tree to tree, often taking quite long leaps.

Rabbits are other small animals that children love to play with. When I was a little girl, I was given a pair of maltese rabbits and after a while, they had cunning little ones which looked so pretty as they ran about the lawn. Rabbits are very friendly and as they like to live near people's houses, they make charming pets. How much they enjoy a nice sweet apple or a cabbage leaf.

God made many other interesting creatures—the beavers, which spend much time in the water and build dams, or walls, to keep the river high enough for them to swim in; the porcupines, whose backs and tails are covered with curious

quills which they can throw at any one who tries to harm them and give great pain; the funny monkeys which look so much like people and often try to do just what they see them do.

As the plants and trees, fish and birds had babies, so God told all the animals they, too, might have little ones. Sometimes they are called by different names from their mammas. What is the cow's baby called? Yes, calf. And the sheep's baby? The goat's? The cat's and the dog's?

The mamma animals love their little ones and take such good care of them. Have you ever seen a great lion in some park playing with her little cubs or washing their faces? In the forest the papa lion helps the mamma get the babies' food and later shows them how to hunt and find it for themselves.

The great hippopotamus, also, takes tender care of her little one. When it is very young, it cannot stay under the water so long as its mother, so she lets it stand on her broad back, where it can keep its head in the air as it rides about.

Another mother carries her baby in even a stranger way. The kangaroo has a sort of pocket on the under side of her body where her little one can ride. At first 'tis very tiny, not so long as your little finger, and it stays in her pocket until it grows large and is able to run at her side. Even then, when frightened, it will

jump head over heels into this fine hiding place. The baby is called a joey and very cunning it looks as its pretty little head sticks out of the pocket and its bright eyes watch where it is going. Its mamma can take very long leaps, so it often has a fast ride.

Is it not very wonderful that God taught all the animals, when He made them, what food was best for them and how to get it and also how to take such good care of their little ones !

Now would you like to hear the story just as the Bible tells it? "And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind, cattle, and creeping things, and beasts of the earth after their kind : ' and it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle" (the cows, sheep and goats) "after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth" (such as a worm, caterpillar or snake) "after its kind : and God saw that it was good."

VII

CREATION OF MAN

Genesis 1 : 26-31 ; 2 : 8-10, 15, 18-22

STORY

FOR whom, children, did God make this beautiful world? Did He make the water just for the fish, and the earth for the vines and flowers and the trees only for the birds? Oh, no, in the very beginning He planned all these things for people to enjoy. He wanted them to be happy, so He made the grand oceans, the great forests and lovely flowers, the darting fish and singing birds and all the useful animals.

Then He prepared a beautiful home and called it the Garden of Eden. I am sure it was lovelier than any place we have ever seen. It had great forest trees and others bearing delicious fruits, while lovely flowers of many colours grew everywhere and made the air sweet with their fragrance. Through it flowed a broad river, birds sang and built their nests in the trees, while many animals roamed about seeking their food, or rested in the shady places.

When this home was ready, God made the man who was to live in it. Can you tell me

what his name was? Yes, Adam. I think he was tall, straight and fine looking, with beautiful eyes and dark hair. He could do many wonderful things with his hands and feet. Can you tell me some of them? Then with his eyes he could see all the beauty about him, while with his ears he could hear the song of birds and the voices of animals. His nose brought the sweet odours to him and with his mouth he could talk and also eat the delicious fruits.

Then, more wonderful still, he had a mind with which he could think and plan what he would do and a heart to love the dear heavenly Father. The Bible tells us that God made man like Himself. I think this means that he could be kind as God was kind, and gentle as God was gentle, and loving as God was loving; in all these ways he could be like the dear heavenly Father.

When Adam first saw the home God had made for him, don't you think he must have been very happy? How beautiful the trees and the flowers must have looked and the clear water of the river, in which he could see his own face. How he must have loved to hear the birds sing and how good the fruits must have tasted!

After awhile, the Bible tells us, God brought the animals to Adam that he might give each one a name. Can you tell me some of the names he gave them? I think they came to Adam, two by two—a papa and mamma lion, a papa

and mamma horse, a papa and mamma dog, a papa and mamma rabbit, and all the others—and as he gave them names, it made him a little lonely to see that each of them had a mate, while he was alone. But God wanted him to be happy, you know, so He said : “ It is not good for man to be alone. I will make an helpmeet for him,” that means some one to help and love him.

God, therefore, put Adam to sleep and then He made a woman. She must have been very beautiful, with long fair hair, cheeks like roses, teeth white as pearls and such a sweet smile. When Adam awoke and saw her standing near, don't you think it must have seemed to him almost too good to be true that now he need be alone no more. He could talk to this lovely woman as he could not to the animals, for when he spoke to them, they only looked at him but were not able to answer. But this woman could tell him how happy she was to be with him and how much she loved him.

Children, do you suppose these two had any work to do? Would you be happy if you played all day long? I think not, for 'tis better to feel that there is something for each to do. God gave this first man and woman some work, and what do you think it was? Why, He told them He wished them to take care of the Garden, and they must have enjoyed doing this. Perhaps they brought water to give the thirsty

plants a drink, picked off the withered petals from the flowers and trained the vines to run over the trees.

Then when they wanted to eat, they had only to gather the fruits and they had a very nice breakfast or dinner without any trouble of cooking. And at night, where do you think they slept? They had no house, you know, and no bed but perhaps they piled up some leaves beneath a large tree and there they rested as well as if it had been the softest kind of bed.

God gave these two people all the animals to care for and I know they were very kind to them. The birds came and fed out of their hands and the little squirrels frisked about, while the great beasts rubbed their noses against them as if they were trying to say how much they loved them.

Now God's work was all done. He had made the water and the dry land, the sun, moon and stars, the fish, birds and animals, and last of all, this man and woman, and the Bible tells us that God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good.

Shall we sing now :

“ All things bright and beautiful,¹
All things great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
Our Father made them all.

¹“ God's Work,” from “ Song Stories for the Sunday School,” by Patty S. and Mildred J. Hill, used by kind permission of the authors, and also of the publishers, Summy & Company.

" Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

" He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How good is God our Father
Who doeth all things well."

VIII

THE FIRST SABBATH

Genesis 2 : 1-3

Picture—MILAN CATHEDRAL¹

STORY

AFTER God had finished making the heavens and the earth, the Bible tells us that He rested from all His work. He knew that people could not be busy day after day without getting very tired, so He planned a day of rest for them. To show just what He meant them to do, He, Himself, rested. Then He blessed and hallowed this rest day, which means He made it a holy day when no work was to be done. For six days people might labour and do all their work, but when the seventh day came they were to take a rest.

What do we call this rest day? Yes, Sunday or the Sabbath. Where do we go on Sunday? To church, where we can hear about God and thank and praise Him for all He has done for us. At first people had no churches, so they piled up stones, which they called altars, and by them they

¹ This picture is in the Perry collection. A photograph of the beautiful painting, called "Religion," by Charles Sprague Pearce, in the Library of Congress, would show the early form of worship described in the story.

stood and thanked God. But after a while, when they began to build houses for themselves, they wanted to build houses for God, also, and these they called temples or churches.

Across the ocean, in other countries, these churches are often even more beautiful than they are with us. It took many, many years to build them and every one helped ; those who were rich gave a great deal of money, and those who had less gave what they could, while very poor people gave their work. Don't you think they all loved the church which they had thus helped to build for God?

The largest churches are called cathedrals and temples and they are built of beautiful marble or stone. There is exquisite carving on them and lovely glass windows of rich colours let in the light, while large pictures are painted on the walls.

One of the most wonderful I have ever seen is at Milan, a city in a far-away country called Italy. This cathedral has beautiful towers which rise towards the sky and it is all of pure white marble, as if it were made by the frost fairies. It is very, very large and many hundreds of years were taken to build it. I think the people longed to make the most beautiful house in the world for God, so they were glad to give both their time and money. I wish you might all see it, children.

Inside are large aisles and though there are many windows of richly coloured glass which look like gorgeous flowers, the light that comes through them is softened, so the cathedral is dim and seems very quiet and peaceful. The pulpits are of gold and two organs give wonderful music, while the boys who sing are dressed in white gowns and look like angels, as you see them from a distance. About the doors and windows leaves, fruits, flowers and birds have been carved, while many statues add to the beauty. Large columns separate the aisles and look like tall trees in a forest. Even the floor is made of tiny pieces of different coloured marble carefully fitted together.

After climbing many, many stairs, I stood on the roof of this great cathedral. It was so high that the people in the street below looked like dolls. Above was the deep blue sky and beyond the city the great mountains lifted their heads. The setting sun turned the white marble spires and the lovely statues on the roof to rose colour and later, when the moon came up, it was indeed like a scene in fairyland. As the great bells rang out, they seemed to say, "Praise God! Praise God!" and I remembered that the beautiful cathedral had been built so that people might have a place in which to thank the dear heavenly Father for all He had done for them.

There are many other great and beautiful

churches in all parts of the world, for wherever people know of God and love Him, they want to build a house for Him. That is the reason the people who live in our city built this church that we are in. They made it of stone (brick or wood, as the case may be) and put beautiful woodwork and many lovely painted windows inside. In the tower they hung a bell (or chimes, if such is the case) which should tell the people when it was time to come to church and in the largest room they placed a great organ. Other rooms, also, were built where the children might come to Sunday-school and learn about dear Jesus.

It rests people to be in church where they can sing and pray and listen to the minister as he tells of God's goodness to them. Little children, also, like to go, even though they cannot understand all that is said. They love to see the flowers and hear the music and to be with their papas and mammas in God's house.

God said that if people would do no work on Sunday but would try to please Him in every way, He would surely bless them. I think little children should put away the toys they play with through the week and have others, like Noah's arks and blocks, with which they can play Sunday games. Then, perhaps, with mamma's help, they can take flowers or fruit to some one who is ill, or a little gift to a poor person, for I know

it would please the dear Father if they should try to make some one happy on His day.

It is very nice to have dear papa at home on Sunday and this helps to make it the happiest day of all the week, does it not? Let us remember to thank the dear heavenly Father for planning this rest day for us.

IX

THE EXPULSION FROM EDEN

Genesis 2 : 16, 17 ; 3 : 1-20, 23, 24

Picture—EXPULSION OF ADAM AND EVE FROM
THE GARDEN.—*Doré*

STORY

(THE following story may be used as a preface to the Bible narrative, if desired.)

Before we talk any more of the first two people whom God made, children, I want to tell you a short story. Once upon a time there were two little children, whose names were Philip and Marjorie. Their mother and father planned a lovely play room for them as a pleasant surprise. The sunlight came in brightly through the windows, many pretty pictures were on the walls, birds sang in cages and goldfish swam about in a large globe. Pretty plants blossomed in the windows and flowers were arranged in vases.

There were more toys than I can begin to tell you about—dolls, a doll's house and cunning furniture and dishes, soldiers, a rocking-horse, blocks and balls. You can just think how delighted the children were when they saw all these beautiful things ! They danced about their



EXPULSION FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN

papa and mamma and cried: "Oh, how lovely it all is! How good you are to give it to us!"

Then papa said: "Children, it is all yours and you can play with what you please. The candy is simple and won't hurt you and you can eat any of the fruit except these apples. They are not quite ripe and might make you ill, so you must not touch them."

Then papa and mamma left the room and for a long time the children played with the toys very happily. At last, however, Marjorie began to get a little tired of play, and as she wandered about the room, she happened to notice the dish of apples on the table. Other fruit was there also, but those pretty rosy apples seemed nicer than anything else. The more she looked, the more she wanted them. She forgot all the other things that had been given to her and she thought: "I don't see why papa doesn't want us to eat those apples. I'm just sure they wouldn't hurt us."

Then she touched one with her finger; after a moment she took it in her hand and at last she tasted it. As soon as she had done this, she called her brother, "Oh, Philip, you don't know how good these apples are!"

Philip came quickly and cried out, "Why, Marjorie, papa told us not to touch them!"

"I know," said Marjorie, "but I did want them so much and I don't believe they'll hurt us a bit.

You'd better take one, too. I'm sure they are ripe and they taste so good."

Philip said, "Indeed I won't."

But instead of going back to his toys, he looked and looked at the beautiful apples, until at last he, too, tasted one.

Just then mamma came to the room to see how the children were enjoying their surprise. Instead of running to her with happy faces, Philip and Marjorie hung their heads and looked so ashamed. Mamma asked, "Why, what have you been doing, children?"

Then she saw the fruit in their hands and she said very sadly: "Have you really eaten the apples? When papa and mamma gave you so many beautiful things, couldn't you mind us and not touch this fruit?"

She took hold of their hands and said: "You must come out of this pretty room where we hoped you would be so happy. When you are strong enough to do just what we tell you, perhaps you can play here again."

Now, children, I want to tell you more of the first man and woman whom God made. We talked of the beautiful Garden which was their first home, where were lovely flowers, sparkling fountains, singing birds and many animals. Before God left them, He showed them all the trees which were covered with delicious fruit. He said they could eat everything except the apples on a

beautiful tree which stood in the midst of the Garden. But those apples they must not eat because they would hurt them.

I am sure Adam and Eve were very happy at first. They wandered up and down the pretty paths, bathed in the cool water, ate of the delicious fruits and rested beneath the trees. God came often at eventide and walked and talked with them and this they must have enjoyed most of all.

But one day Eve was walking by herself and she happened to pass the beautiful apple-tree, whose fruit God had said they must not eat. As she looked up at its green leaves, she saw a great serpent coiled among the branches. She was much surprised, for the birds never built their nests in that tree nor did the animals go near it. She was still more astonished when the serpent spoke to her, using words like her own, and this is what he said, "Did God say you couldn't eat the fruit of any tree in the Garden?"

"Oh, no," Eve replied, "He said we might eat of all the fruit except that which grows on this one tree. He told us not to eat this because it would hurt us."

Then the serpent answered: "It wouldn't hurt you. I've eaten it and it tastes very good and makes you know many things which you couldn't learn in any other way."

Then Eve looked and looked at the beautiful

fruit, as little Marjorie did, in the story I just told you, and the more she looked, the more she wanted it. The apples were rosy red and she felt sure they would taste deliciously and she thought it would be very nice to be so wise, so at last she broke off one and ate it. Then she called to Adam to come and take one, also. Perhaps he didn't do this at first, perhaps he felt sorry she had touched the fruit, but at last he, too, ate of it.

Then, children, instead of being wise, as the serpent had said they would be, Adam and Eve felt very sorry they had disobeyed God. They could no longer enjoy the singing of the happy birds nor play with the animals as they roamed about. And that evening, when they heard God's voice, instead of being glad to see Him, as they had always been before, they hid themselves among the trees.

Like a loving, tender Father, God called, "Where are you, Adam?"

Then Adam answered, "I heard your voice in the Garden and I was afraid, so I hid myself."

"Why were you afraid?" asked God. "Have you eaten the fruit that I told you not to eat?"

Then, children, Adam acted like a coward and instead of saying, "Yes, I did eat it," he tried to put the blame on Eve. He said, "You gave me this woman and she told me to eat."

God then turned to Eve and asked, "Did you eat this fruit?"

Eve was no braver than Adam and she answered, "The serpent told me to eat it."

Then God said to the serpent: "Because you did this you must now crawl along on the ground and eat of the dust of the earth. Every one will hate you and be afraid of you."

I do not believe, children, that any one ever loved snakes or liked to have them near. Then God told Eve that she would have a great deal of pain and trouble because she had disobeyed Him. He then told Adam that he could no longer get his food just by picking it off the trees, but instead he must work hard for it. He must dig and plow and get very tired. But He said that after a long, long time a little Child would come who would bring joy to the world by helping people to be good again.

Then God told Adam and Eve they must leave the beautiful Garden where they had been so happy. How sad they must have felt as they walked through it for the last time and saw the lovely blossoms, the shady trees with their beautiful fruits and the clear water of the river.

When they had left the Garden, God sent an angel with shining white garments to stand at the gate with a sword as bright as fire, so that Adam and Eve could not come back again. How they must have wished they had obeyed God and had not touched the apples!

X

THE FIRST CHILDREN

Genesis 4: 1, 2, 20-22

PICTURE—SAINT CECILIA—*Carlo Dolci*¹

STORY

AFTER Adam and Eve had left the beautiful Garden of Eden, I think their life must have been very hard and sad. Adam had to work all day long to get food for them to eat. Instead of having the delicious fruits that hung on the bushes and trees, which they had only to gather, he must now work to make anything grow. Weeds choked the grain which he planted in the ground and sharp thorns and thistles pricked his hands and feet. Eve, too, missed the lovely flowers she had taken care of and all the beauties of the Garden of Eden.

But after a time a great happiness came to them, for God sent them a little baby. Just think, he was the first one they had ever seen! I know Eve must have cuddled him close to her and kissed his little rosebud mouth, his dimpled hands and dear little pink toes. How she must have loved to have his pretty bright

¹ This picture, in the Brown collection, may be used to illustrate an organ.

eyes smile into hers, while his soft cooing was the sweetest music she had ever heard.

Perhaps she whispered, as she held her darling close to her heart :

“ ‘ Where did you come from, baby dear ? ’ ”

and the baby seemed to answer :

“ ‘ Out of the everywhere into the here.’ ”

“ ‘ Where did you get your eyes so blue ? ’ ”

‘ Out of the sky as I came through.’ ”

“ ‘ What makes the light in them sparkle and spin ? ’ ”

‘ Some of the starry spikes left in.’ ”

“ ‘ Whence that three cornered smile of bliss ? ’ ”

‘ Three angels gave me at once a kiss.’ ”

“ ‘ Where did you get that pearly ear ? ’ ”

‘ God spoke and it came out to hear.’ ”

“ ‘ How did they all just come to be you ? ’ ”

‘ God thought about me, and so I grew.’ ”

“ ‘ But how did you come to us, my dear ? ’ ”

‘ God thought of you, and so I am here.’ ”

Now Eve must have been sure that, though God had shut them out of Eden, He had not forgotten them, because He had given them this little child. She named her baby Cain, which means something she could keep for her very own.

A little later another son came to Adam and Eve, whom they called Abel. It must have made them very happy to see the two little brothers playing together. But, children, do you know that, as they grew older, only one of them was loving, helpful and kind. Isn't it sad that Cain, the first little child that ever came to this world, always wanted the best things for himself? He became angry very often and then he would speak such cross words and do such naughty things that I am sure he must have made his dear mother and father very sad. But Abel was a great comfort to them, as he was loving and gentle and tried to please them in all that he did.

When the boys grew to be men, Cain was a farmer like his father and worked in the fields, while Abel took care of the sheep. But they were just the same when men as they had been as boys. Cain was still proud and selfish, while Abel was always good, taking tender care of the sheep and lambs and being a loving son and brother. When you are older, you will learn more of these two boys.

I want now to tell you about the three sons of a man named Lamech who lived many years after Cain. Each made something that even now is useful or gives us pleasure, so I feel sure that you will like to hear about them. They all had such funny names and you never could

guess what they were. One of them was called Tubal-cain and he first made things out of copper and iron. Think how many, many things are now made from these metals. Can you tell me some of them? I think Tubal-cain made spades and plows with which to work in the fields, tools to help in building and dishes to cook with.

Another son's name was Jabal and the Bible tells us that he first made tents. Like Abel, he took care of the sheep and the goats and perhaps he had camels, also, and as he had to travel from place to place to find grass for them to eat, he needed a home which could be moved, so he made tents for himself and his helpers. Even to-day the Arabs who live in hot countries find tents pleasant, as they like to travel about; the Indians, also, make them and call them tepees. Some people like to live in them for part of the time, as the soldiers who have them when they are sent to new places. Perhaps some day you will go camping and then you, too, will live in tents in the woods and I am sure you will find them very pleasant.

The third brother's name was quite like Jabal, as he was called Jubal, and he made something that was nicer than tents. What do you think it was? What gives us music? Yes, our voices, and what else? The organ, piano and violin. Jubal was the first man who thought about mak-

ing something to play on. Even before he lived I feel sure that people must have sung and whistled and perhaps clapped their hands, as we do in Kindergarten. But as Jubal listened to the sweet songs of the birds, as he heard the whistling of the wind and the creaking of the branches or the sound the waves made as they gently plashed upon the shore or dashed with a loud roar against the rocks, I think he wished he could make such music.

Perhaps he first found a big shell with bits of the little animal's skin stretched across it, which made a pretty sound as he struck it with his foot. The Bible tells us that he was the first one who ever made a harp and an organ but I am sure these instruments of his were very different from what we have now. Have you ever tried to shoot with a bow and arrow? I think Jubal's harp may have been like a bow with several strings across it and when he pulled them, they made a musical sound. Then perhaps his organ was just a little mouth organ, made of reeds, which he could blow.

But I am so glad he tried to make music thus, for when others saw what he had done, they, also, tried. Better and better instruments were made until now we have very large harps, one of them having as many as seventy eight strings. These give such a rich, full tone that some think even in heaven we shall enjoy their exquisite

music. I wonder what Jubal would say if he could hear our wonderful organs with their many stops and their thousands of pipes, on which organists play not only with their hands but also with their feet.

Once when I was in a country called Switzerland, across the ocean, I heard some music that I am sure you would have liked. I went with some friends to a large church which was almost dark, as there were only a few small lamps lit in front. We sat beneath the great organ and heard the wonderful Hallelujah Chorus, which tells of the joy on earth and in heaven when Jesus went back to His Father's home. After this the music was soft and low as though everything was quiet and at rest and we seemed to hear shepherds playing on their pipes as they watched their sheep. Then distant rumblings were heard like the coming of a storm. We seemed to hear the rain falling, first quietly and then faster and faster, while the thunder pealed and crashed. Then, little by little, the rain ceased falling, the thunder died away and we seemed to hear the voices of the shepherds singing a hymn of praise to God for keeping them safe during the storm.

Many other instruments now give us beautiful music besides the harp and the organ. Can you tell me of some? Yes, the piano, the violin, drum, horn, flute, trumpet and many others.

78 Kindergarten Bible Stories

Are we not glad that Jubal first thought of making music in this way? To remember him we call some of our concerts Jubilees, which mean a time of great joy.

XI

NOAH AND THE ARK

Genesis 5 : 28, 29 ; 6 : 5-22 ; 7 ; 8 : 1-11

Picture—RETURN OF THE DOVE TO THE ARK—
Oppenheim

STORY

LAST Sunday we talked of the first little children who ever came to this world. Do you remember their names? Yes, Cain and Abel. Did both try to do what was right? No, only Abel tried to be kind and loving, while Cain did many wrong things. Then we spoke of other men; Tubal-cain, Jabal and Jubal. After a while there were many, many people on the earth, but I am sorry to say that most of them were like Cain, selfish and cruel, and only a very few were like Abel who tried to please the loving heavenly Father. Finally when God saw that almost all of them did what was wrong and had wicked thoughts and bad hearts, He was so grieved that He was almost sorry He had made the first man. He said, "I cannot let people live in this beautiful world when they are so wicked."

But, children, there was just one man who had always tried to be good, and I want to tell you about him. His father had had to work hard,

plowing and sowing seed and cutting the grain, and he often became very tired. When God sent him a little baby boy, he thought, "This child will help me"; so he named him Noah, which means a "comfort." I am sure he always was a comfort and help to his father, and the Bible tells us "he walked with God." Don't you like to take a walk with papa? As you slip your little hand in his, you feel so safe and you are quite sure he will not let anything hurt you. Then do you not try to be very good, doing nothing that will trouble him? I think it was thus that Noah walked with God. He knew his dear heavenly Father would take care of him and keep him safe and he tried to do all he could to please Him. I think he always spoke true words and was gentle, loving and kind, so when God was grieved because all the other people were wicked, He was glad to remember this one man who always tried to do right.

God called Noah one day and told him that the people were so bad He was going to send a flood to drown them, but He wished him to build a great boat in which he and all his family would be quite safe. Noah must have felt very sad when he heard that all the people were to be drowned. He talked to them for many, many years and tried to get them to be good, so they, too, could be saved, but no one would listen to him.

Noah did not spend all his time talking, for he and his sons worked busily, cutting down tall trees and then building from them the great boat, or ark, as it was called. God had told him just how to build it, and had said it must be large enough to hold him and his family and some of all the different kinds of animals, as well as food for all. Perhaps the people laughed as they saw him building and said: "What a foolish man Noah is! We don't believe there will be any flood."

But the boat grew larger and larger. First there was one story where were many little rooms, then another story was built over it, which had rooms also, and a third story was added like the others. At last a slanting roof was put on which would keep off the rain, and up under it was a row of windows to let in the light, while on one side of the ark Noah made a large door. He used very hard wood in building and put pitch on the outside, which would keep out the water. He and his sons worked many, many years in building the ark, for it was as large as some of the largest steamers that are made now. All this time there was no sign of the great rain that was coming, so I suppose those who watched Noah at work kept on laughing at him, but he was very sure the flood would surely come because God had said so.

When the great ark was finished it must have

taken Noah and his sons a long time to put enough food in it for them all to eat. But at last everything was ready and then God told Noah to take the animals and go into it. Wouldn't you like to have seen the great procession as they went in, two by two? Perhaps first came the tall giraffes, then the great elephants (the door was large enough for even these big animals), then the deer with their graceful antlers, the lions, bears, foxes, wolves,—I cannot begin to name them all. Then the different kinds of birds flew in, while at last came Noah with his wife, his sons, whose names were Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their three wives. Then the Bible tells us that God "shut them in."

It was a whole week after this before the rain began to fall, but I think the skies grew blacker and blacker, while the rumbling of thunder could sometimes be heard. Perhaps the people were now frightened, as they feared that the terrible storm of which Noah had told them was really coming. I think they wished they were safe in the ark, and some may have even knocked on the door and asked to be let in, but Noah couldn't open it because the Lord had shut it.

Now the rain began to fall, gently at first, and then faster and faster. It filled the streams and rivers so full that they flowed over the land, and finally the storm grew so terrible that it seemed as if windows were opened in heaven, out of



AND VIEW BACK TO THE ARK

FROM ANOTHER POINT

OF VIEW

which the rain was pouring. First the water covered the streets, the fields and meadows; then it rose higher and higher until the houses could no longer be seen. The little hills were next hidden and at last even the great mountains were covered. For forty days and forty nights the rain fell until nothing but water could be seen over all the earth. Do you think Noah and his family were frightened? Oh, no, as the ark floated upon the water, they knew that God would take care of them and keep them quite safe.

At last the rain ceased but still it was a long, long time before any land could be seen. But the Bible tells us that God remembered Noah and his family and all the animals that were with him in the ark and sent a wind to dry up the water. I think the warm sun also helped the wind, so, little by little, the waters went down. At last the ark stopped floating and stood still, so Noah knew that the ground was under them, but it was over two months before he could see even the tops of the mountains. When I crossed the big ocean and there was nothing but water in sight for many days, I was very glad to see the land once more on the other side. And I am sure it made Noah and his family happy when, after waiting many, many months with nothing but water about them, dry land could at last be seen.

Noah waited forty days more and then he let a raven fly out of the window, that he might know whether the earth were dry enough for them to leave the ark. The raven did not come back but Noah thought he would send a dove, also. The poor little creature could find no bush or tree to rest upon, so she soon came flying back. As Noah put out his hand and drew her into the ark, he knew he must be patient and wait still longer. Another week passed and then he sent the gentle dove out again and this time, when she returned, she brought a little olive leaf in her mouth. I am sure Noah was glad to know that the leaves were beginning to grow once more.

But God had not told him to leave the ark, so he still waited. He must often have grown very tired and perhaps sometimes he even thought God had forgotten him. But he remembered how good the heavenly Father had been in keeping him safe in the ark during the flood, so he tried to wait patiently. Next Sunday we will hear more about him.

XII

THE THANKSGIVING OF NOAH

Genesis 8 : 12-22 ; 9 : 8-17

Picture—NOAH AFTER THE DELUGE—*Schopin*

STORY

I TOLD you in my last story, children, of the dove that Noah sent twice from the ark and of his pleasure when she brought back the little leaf to him the second time. He knew that the leaves must be coming out but he waited a week and then he sent her out once more. This time she did not return, for she found a place to stay on the trees or bushes that could now be seen above the water. Noah looked out and saw that the ground really seemed dry, but still he waited for God to speak.

At last he heard God's voice saying: "Go forth from the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, both birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, that they may be fruitful and multiply upon the earth;" (that means that all the animals and birds were to have little ones, so there would soon be a great many).

How very happy Noah must have been that at last he could leave the great boat where he had stayed for over a year. Once again the large procession was seen; Noah and his wife, Shem and his wife, Ham and his wife, Japheth and his wife, and then the animals, large and small, from the great camels to the tiny chipmunks. The birds, also, came out; the peacocks spreading their beautiful tails, the ducks waddling along, while overhead flew the bright-coloured orioles, cardinals and bluejays.

How good it must have seemed to Noah and his family to walk upon the ground again. The delicate green leaves on bush and tree, the sweet blossoms dotting the meadows here and there, and the blue sky above them must have looked more beautiful than ever before.

What do you think Noah did first? Who had taken care of him during all those long months, when every one else was drowned? Yes, the loving heavenly Father. Noah remembered this and the very first thing he did was to thank God. There was no church into which he could go, so he piled up some stones to make an altar, or place where he could pray. Then he and his family gathered around this altar and Noah thanked God for having given them a place in which to stay during the long rain and for having kept him and his dear ones safe from all harm. I am sure he thanked God for having saved the



THE THANKSGIVING OF NOAH

animals, also. Then I think he asked God not to send such a terrible rain again.

God was pleased that Noah remembered first of all to thank Him and He promised that there should never again be such a great flood. He said that every year the seed could be planted in the spring and the grain would ripen in the fall, and that there would always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night. He then blessed Noah and his sons and gave them a sign. Pointing to the beautiful rainbow, He said that whenever they saw the bow they might know that no such dreadful rain would ever again come to the world.

How many of you have seen a rainbow? Can you tell me what colours it has? Yes, red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. After a rain, perhaps while some drops are still falling, sometimes the sun comes out very brightly and shines upon the dark clouds and then, across the sky, we see this lovely bow like a fairy bridge. Once when I was near some great mountains, I saw not only one beautiful rainbow across the whole sky but also a smaller one beneath it, not quite so bright but still showing all the lovely colours. We always like to see this wonderful bow and it makes us glad, as it did Noah and his family, to know that it is God's promise that there shall never be another flood.

I am sure that the dear heavenly Father loves

this beautiful arch, for once He let a good man have a peep into heaven and there he saw a great white throne on which sat Jesus Christ and round about the throne was a rainbow. We know, therefore, that when we go to be with dear Jesus in heaven, we shall still see the beautiful bow we have loved on earth.

XIII

THE OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 11 : 31, 32 ; 12 : 1-7

Picture—ABRAHAM'S JOURNEYING INTO THE
LAND OF CANAAN—*Doré*

STORY

AFTER Noah had gone to be with the dear heavenly Father, most of the people on the earth were wicked as those had been who lived before the flood. But as there was one man then who loved God and tried to please Him—Noah, who was saved in the ark, so now there was one who did what was right. This man's name was Abram and I hope you will try to remember it.

He lived with his father and two brothers in a beautiful city called Ur. It was quite large and there was a high wall all around it. The houses were built of brick and painted with bright colours. Their walls were thick to shut out the heat and the windows were high and small. Lovely trees were planted near the houses and a beautiful fountain stood in the centre of the city. The king lived in a fine palace. Outside the walls were great fields of waving grain and orchards where beautiful fruit of many colours

hung on the trees. A large body of water was near the city and Abram must often have watched the waves as they beat upon the shore.

Even in that early day the people had books but they were made of clay instead of paper and you would have thought them very strange. They told time by the sun, so there were great sun-dials which showed by the shadow cast what time it was. There were three large temples in which the people prayed to the sun, moon and stars, instead of to the dear heavenly Father.

When God saw how the people had forgotten Him and how wicked they were, He said: "I will send Abram away from them, for he loves Me and tries to please Me."

I do not know whether God talked to Abram as your papa would talk to you, or whether He spoke to him in a dream, or just by a little voice in his heart. (Sometimes you know a voice in our hearts seems to speak to us and tells us what to do.) God told Abram to leave his beautiful home and take a long journey. He did not even tell him where to go but said He would show him the way. Don't you think it must have been hard for him to leave the city where he had lived all his life and say good-bye to his friends and go away to a strange country? But Abram had always tried to please God, so now he did just what his heavenly Father told him to



ABRAHAM AND HIS FAMILY STARTING OUT FOR THE LAND OF CANAAN

do. He took his father, his wife and his nephew with him, besides their cattle, flocks and goods.

For many months they travelled until they came to another city. There were high hills about it and grassy meadows where the cattle could find food, so they decided to stay there. After several years had passed Abram's old father died and then God spoke to him and told him to go on still farther. He promised that if Abram went, He would help him and then he would be able to help other people. Abram obeyed the dear heavenly Father just as he had done before and again he took his wife, his nephew and all that he had and left his new home to go into a strange land.

They had no trains, no carriages or wagons, but instead they had to ride on camels, while many of the servants walked to take care of the sheep and goats. I think Abram usually rode ahead to show the rest where to go and because he was the head man, or chief, he wore a scarlet cloak and carried a spear. When it grew dark he would stick the spear in the ground and then the servants would quickly set up the tents and the women would bake little cakes to be eaten with milk and butter. Then they would all rest for the night with the bright stars and perhaps the lovely moon shining over them. The next morning they would start on again. Sometimes they had to cross the hills

and sometimes they travelled through valleys, while once they had to cross a great river.

At last they came to such a beautiful country, where gardens of vegetables and orchards with delicious fruits were to be seen. Lovely flowers blossomed everywhere, while many fountains watered the ground. Here God again came to Abram and told him that he might stay in this land and that later it should all belong to his children.

What do you think Abram did first? Do you remember what Noah did as soon as he came out of the ark? Yes, he built an altar by piling up some large stones, where he could thank God for keeping him safe through the flood. Abram, too, wanted to thank God for taking care of him during his long journey and for promising to give him this beautiful country. He piled up some stones, just as Noah had done, for this was the kind of church they built in those days, and then he, his wife and his nephew all praised God.

XIV

ABRAHAM AND LOT

Genesis 13; 14

Picture—A TROOP OF CAMELS AND THEIR DRIVER

STORY

WE talked last Sunday of Abram who obeyed God and left his home and went into a strange country. To-day I want to tell you more about him. You remember that his nephew, Lot, was with him. Both were rich men and they had not only gold and silver, but also a great many animals—camels, asses, sheep and goats.

What do such animals eat? Yes, grass. There were so many of them that there wasn't grass enough for all, so the herdsmen, or shepherds, who took care of them, began to quarrel. Abram's herdsmen tried to get the best places for his flocks and Lot's men tried to get the nicest grass for his animals.

When Abram heard that the men were quarrelling, he was very much troubled. He went to Lot and said: "You are my nephew and there must never be anything but peace between us. We must never quarrel, nor is it right that our men should do so. If there isn't grass enough

for all our cattle, we will separate, so let us go up on this hill and decide where we will go."

When they had climbed to the top of the hill, they could see the country all about them. Abram said: "Now you may choose where you would like to go and I will take some other place."

Children, wasn't that very kind and generous of Abram? He was Lot's uncle and much older, and he might have said: "I will take this place and you must go somewhere else."

What do you think Lot answered when his uncle told him to choose? Do you think he said: "Oh, Uncle Abram, you choose first, of course, because you brought me here and you are older than I"?

No, children, I am very sorry he did not say this. Instead he looked all over the country to see where was the best place. He saw in one direction some lovely green meadows and near them a beautiful river, and he said, "I will take that part of the country."

Wasn't that very selfish? But Abram said, "Very well, you may have it."

Lot took his wife and his daughters, his servants and all his flocks and herds and went to the place he had chosen, near which were some large cities, while Abram set up his tents in the hilly country. The Lord was pleased that Abram had been so unselfish and He came to him again and

said that He would bless him. He told him to look north, south, east and west, and promised that He would give all that country to his children and his children's children.

Now I want to tell you more about Lot to show you that when people try to get the best things for themselves, they often get into trouble. The cities which were near Lot's new home were called Sodom and Gomorrah. A little while after Lot moved there, some kings, who ruled over other cities, came with their soldiers to fight against Sodom and Gomorrah. As they were very strong, they defeated the people who lived in these two cities and carried away many of them to be their slaves, or servants.

Among these was Lot and he had a very hard time. But one of those who had been made a slave escaped (that means ran away from the soldiers when they were not watching) and came as fast as he could to Abram. He told him that Lot and all his family had been carried away by the kings who had fought against Sodom and Gomorrah. Do you think Abram said: "Well, he chose to live near those cities and now if he is in trouble, I cannot help it"?

No, indeed, Abram did not say that. Instead he said: "Oh, I am so sorry and I will go at once and try to help him."

So he gathered all his servants together (just think! he had over three hundred) and gave

them bows and arrows with which to fight. Then he asked some friends to help him and they all marched after the kings. They overtook them at night, finding them asleep, as they felt quite safe. Abram and his friends and servants fought them until they fled, that means ran away. Then they brought Lot and all the other people, and the things which the kings had taken, back to Sodom and Gomorrah.

The king of Sodom came out to meet them and thanked Abram for all he had done. He wanted him to take all the things he had brought back to pay him for helping so kindly. But Abram said: "Oh, no, I will not take even a shoe-string. I only did this because I loved Lot and wanted to get him out of trouble. If, however, you wish to do so, you may give presents to the friends who have helped me."

Don't you think Lot must have felt very thankful to Abram for all he had done? Perhaps he was a little bit ashamed, too, and wished he had not tried to choose the best place for himself.

Now let us sing:

"Help us to do the things we should,¹
To be to others kind and good;
In all we do, in work or play,
To grow more loving every day."

¹ "Morning Hymn," verse 2, in "Songs and Games for Little Ones," by Misses Walker and Jenks, by kind permission of Oliver Ditson Company.

XV

THE BIRTH OF ISAAC

Genesis 15: 5, 6; 17: 1-5, 15-17; 18: 1-12; 21: 1-8

Picture—ABRAHAM ENTERTAINS THREE STRANGERS—*Doré*

STORY

You remember, children, that God promised to give all the country where Abram lived to his children, but do you know that, though he was an old man, Abram did not have even one little child? God had often made him this promise. Once he had called him out-of-doors at night, when the stars were shining brightly, and had said: "Look up at the stars. Can you tell how many there are of them?"

And when Abram said he could not count them, the Lord replied: "Your children and their children will also be so many that they cannot be counted."

And the Bible tells us that Abram believed that what the Lord said would all come true. God also told him that he would change his name and instead of being known as Abram, which means a father, he should be called Abraham, which means the father of many people. Bu*

still he waited for many, many years and no little child was given to him. At last God told him that his wife, Sarah, should have a little boy. But Sarah was now as old as your grandmothers are, so it did not seem possible that she should have a child. Abraham smiled when God made this promise, because he didn't see how it could come true. But God said that a little boy would surely be given to them.

Soon after this Abraham was sitting, one warm day, in the door of his tent, when, raising his eyes, he saw three men coming towards him. They did not look like the men who lived near him. They wore white shining garments and their faces were so bright he could scarcely look at them. He ran to meet them, bowed low, as people did in those days when they met one another, and begged them to come into his tent. He told his servants to bring water to wash their feet, for people wore sandals in those countries and their feet became dusty and warm when they walked.

Then Abraham hurried to find Sarah and told her to get a nice dinner ready for these guests. She quickly made some cakes, or biscuits, and Abraham helped the servants to prepare the meat. With the meat and cakes, he had butter and milk and when all was ready, he asked the strangers to sit down under a tree outside the tent and he, himself, waited upon them.

The story tells us that one of these guests was the Lord, Himself. Abraham was called the friend of God, and now God came to him just as a friend would do and talked with him. He again told him that Sarah should have a little baby boy. Now it happened that Sarah stood near the door of the tent and she heard what the Lord said. It seemed to her so strange that a little boy should come to Abraham and herself, when they were such old people, that she, too, laughed just as he had done.

But do you know, children, that after a time a dear little boy *was* given to Abraham and Sarah, as the Lord had promised? Now again Sarah laughed, but this time because she was so happy that the smiles would come. I want to tell you just what she said: "God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me."

Did you ever see mamma laughing and though perhaps you did not know what she was laughing at, you, too, began to smile? I think Sarah's face looked so happy that every one who saw her smiled with her, and when they knew what a beautiful gift had been given to her, they rejoiced with her. Abraham and Sarah called their little boy Isaac, which means laughter. I think they wanted even his name to show how happy they were because he had been given to them.

When Isaac was three years old, his father gave a great party, that all his friends might see

his dear little son. The tables were trimmed with lovely flowers and there was also beautiful music. The guests wore robes of white or bright colours and all were very happy. As they were eating, little Isaac was brought in and he was given some simple food. He was dressed in a little garment that only the first son ever wore, and when the people saw him, they told Abraham how glad they were that this little boy had been given to him, who would take his place when he went to be with the dear heavenly Father. We shall hear, children, in other stories what a joy and comfort Isaac always was to his father and mother.

XVI

REBECCA AT THE WELL

Genesis 23 : 1, 2 ; 24 : 1-28

Picture—ELIEZER MEETS REBECCA AT THE
WELL—*Doré*

STORY

As the little boy Isaac, of whom we heard last Sunday, grew older, he was always gentle and loving, quick and ready to mind his father and mother. They had waited so long for this little child that it must have made them very happy to have such a dear good son when at last he was given to them.

After many years, when Isaac had grown to be a tall young man, his dear mother went to live with the heavenly Father and as he loved her dearly, he was very lonely. His father thought that it would be good for him to marry but he did not wish his wife to be one of the strangers among whom they now lived. He called his servant, Eliezer, therefore, and told him to take the long journey back to the country where he used to live and find there a wife for his son among his relatives.

Eliezer said: "But perhaps the maiden will

not be willing to follow me into this strange land. If she is not, shall I take Isaac back there?"

Abraham answered: "No, my son must stay in this land where God has brought us. But He will send an angel before you who will help you to find a wife for him."

So Eliezer took servants to help him, ten camels and a great deal of food and started on his long journey. After he had travelled for many days, he came to the city to which Abraham had sent him. Here he stopped at the well which was just outside the city. He let the camels kneel down so they might rest and then, as it was late in the afternoon, he waited for the women to come and draw water. In those days people did not have water in their houses, as we do now, but instead they had to bring it from wells, which were often quite a long way off. The young women would carry tall jars, or pitchers, on their shoulders and go to the wells to fill them and bring the water back to their homes.

As Eliezer waited, he asked God to send to the well the maiden who would make a good wife for Isaac. While he was praying, a beautiful young woman, whose name was Rebecca, came walking towards the well, carrying her pitcher. When she had filled it, Eliezer stepped up to her and said, "May I have a little water out of your pitcher?"



REBECCA AT THE WELL

She answered very kindly, "Drink all you wish," and she took the pitcher from her shoulder and held it in her hand, so he could get the water easily. When he had finished drinking, she said, "I will draw some water for your camels, also."

It was hard work to draw up the full pitcher out of the well but she did this several times, pouring the water into a trough which stood near, out of which the camels could drink. When they had had all they wished, Eliezer gave the young maiden some golden bracelets and also a gold ring to wear in her nose. Wouldn't it seem funny to wear rings in our noses? But in those days the women wore them there and in their ears, also. Then Eliezer asked, "Whose daughter are you?"

Rebecca told him her father's name and just think, she was Isaac's own cousin, the very one Abraham wished him to marry! Eliezer asked if he might spend the night in her father's home. She answered, "Yes, indeed, there is room enough and you will be very welcome."

She ran home to tell her father that a guest was coming. Eliezer then knelt down and thanked God for answering his prayer and sending the right maiden to the well to draw water.

XVII

THE MARRIAGE OF REBECCA

Genesis 24 : 29-67

Picture—ELIEZER AT THE HOUSE OF
BETHUEL—*Schopin*

STORY

IN our last story I told you that Rebecca ran home to tell of the stranger whom she had met. As soon as her brother, whose name was Laban, heard of him, he went out to the well and said to Eliezer: "Come right to our home; there is plenty of room for you and for the camels, also."

I am sure Eliezer must have been glad to find such a nice place to stay after his long journey. The servants took the saddles off from the camels and gave them food, and straw to lie upon. Then water was given to Eliezer and his men to wash their feet, for you remember that people wore sandals in those days and their feet became hot and dusty. Eliezer was then invited to take dinner but he said, "Before I do so, I want to tell you why I have come."

He then told them how the Lord had blessed Abraham and given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, many servants and, best of all, a dear

son. As Abraham wished his son to marry one of his own people, who lived in the country from which he had come, he had sent him on this long journey.

Eliezer told how he had asked God to send the maiden to the well who would be the right wife for Isaac and how Rebecca, his own cousin, had come. He then asked her father and brother if she might go back with him to become Isaac's wife. They answered that, as it seemed to be the will of God, she might go. Eliezer again thanked God for helping him to find this beautiful maiden who would return with him.

Then he brought out rich gifts which he had with him—necklaces, ear-rings and bracelets of gold and silver and many lovely dresses—and gave them all to Rebecca from Isaac. He gave beautiful presents, also, to her mother and brother. After this they had dinner and I am sure every one was very happy.

Eliezer spent the night with them and the next morning he wished to start for home. But Rebecca's mother and brother said: "Oh, don't go yet: we cannot have Rebecca leave us quite so soon. Wait a few days and then she may go."

Eliezer replied: "I must go now, for I am sure Abraham will wish to know as soon as possible whether I have found a wife for his son."

They said, "Well, we will call Rebecca and find out whether she is willing to go."

Calling her, they asked, "Will you go now with Eliezer?"

And she replied, "Yes, I will go."

It was very hard for her to leave all her dear ones and I know she must have cried as she kissed her mother good-bye. But they all blessed her and wished her a very happy life. She rode one of the camels which Eliezer had brought and her maid, who went with her, rode on another. Wouldn't it seem strange for us to ride in this way, instead of in a carriage or in the cars?

They travelled many days and I think Rebecca must have become very tired. But at last they reached the place where Isaac lived. 'Twas just growing dark and he had walked out-of-doors to think and pray. As I told you, he had been very lonely since his dear mother went to heaven and perhaps, as he walked, he was thinking of her. Then, as he looked up, he saw the camels coming. Rebecca had been thinking of her new home and of Isaac, whom she was to marry, and as she raised her eyes, she saw a man walking near them. She asked Eliezer, "Who is that?"

He answered, "It is my master."

Then Rebecca hastened to get down from the camel that she might go to meet him. But first she put a veil over her face, for she did not wish him to see her until they were alone together. Eliezer told Isaac all about the journey and I

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think he was very happy to hear how the Lord had sent Rebecca to be his wife.

He took her into the tent which had been his mother's and then at last she raised her veil and he saw how beautiful she was. The Bible tells us "he loved her and was comforted after his mother's death." He had missed his dear mother very much, so I know he must have been glad to have this lovely maiden come to keep him from being lonely.

XVIII

ISAAC AND THE WELLS

Genesis 26 : 1-6, 12-33

STORY

SOME time after Isaac's marriage to Rebecca, of which we heard last Sunday, there was a famine in the land where they lived. Do you know what a famine is? Yes, it is a time when people cannot get enough food to eat. Perhaps the rain does not fall, so the grain cannot grow. As Isaac could not get enough to eat in his own country, he went to a place called Gerar. At first the king of that country, whose name was Abimelech, was kind and friendly to him.

But as the years passed, Isaac became very rich. The seed he sowed grew so fast that he had great harvests. He had many flocks and herds, also, and a large number of servants. Then the Philistines, the people of that country, began to envy and hate him and at last King Abimelech said to him, "Go away from us, for you are much stronger and richer than we are."

Was not the king unkind to tell Isaac to leave his new home? As he was stronger, he might have said that he would not go. But he was al-

ways gentle and never liked to quarrel with any one, so he packed up his tents and travelled a little distance.

What do you think he needed for his flocks and herds? Yes, grass for them to eat. And what else must they have? Yes, water to drink. You know that in those days people had to dig wells to get water. Abraham had lived for a time in the very place where Isaac now stopped and had dug several wells, but the Philistines had filled them all up, so no one could get water from them. Isaac now had his servants dig these wells again. Abraham was no longer with him, as he had gone to be with the dear heavenly Father, but Isaac still loved him and so he called these wells by the same names that his father had given to them.

When his servants were digging one of these wells, the Philistines came and fought them and said, "The water is ours."

It did not really belong to them but Isaac would not fight, so he said: "Let them have it: go and dig another one."

He called that well "Quarrel," because the people of Gerar wanted to fight about it. His servants dug another well and it was very hard work, for they had to cut right through the rock and often go down, down, down, deep into the ground before they found water, so it took them a long, long time. But when at last they reached

the water, the Philistines came again and said the water was theirs. Isaac called this well "Hatred," because the people still hated him and he told his servants to go on farther and dig another.

Here again they dug and dug for many, many months, and when they reached the water, the Philistines troubled them no more, so Isaac called that well "Room," for he said: "At last we have room for a well of our own and need have no quarrels here."

Wasn't it better for him to keep moving on than to have his men quarrelling and fighting?

Now I want to tell you of something else that happened because he was so peaceable. The king Abimelech and two of his captains came to see Isaac. He was much surprised and asked them: "Why do you come to me since you hated me so much that you sent me away from your city?"

They answered: "You were so gentle and peaceable that we saw that God was with you, so we would like to be friends."

Don't you think that made Isaac very happy? The Bible says that he made a party for them, and they all had such a good time. The next morning, when they went away, they promised that they would not quarrel any more but would always be good friends.

That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about another well that they had dug, where

they had found water. He said he would call it "Shebah," which means promise, because Abimelech had promised to be his friend. This well was always known after that as "Beersheba," which means "The well of the promise."

XIX

JACOB AND ESAU

Genesis 25 : 20-34

Picture—TENTS AND NATIVES, ALGERIA,
AFRICA¹

STORY

You remember, children, that God promised Abraham many, many times that He would give all the country, to which He told him to go, to his children and to their children. But Abraham and Sarah had to wait many years before God gave them Isaac, their first little boy. Isaac and Rebecca, also, had to wait a long time before any children were sent to them. I know they must often have asked the heavenly Father to make them happy by giving them a dear little child.

At last two little sons came and they named them Esau and Jacob. How happy both Isaac and Rebecca must have been as they listened to the sound of baby voices and to the patter of baby feet, and how they must have thanked God for sending them these dear children!

¹ This picture in the Perry collection or any other showing an oriental tent would give the children an idea of the home of Isaac.

As the boys grew older, they were very different. Esau was never still; he liked to walk, to run and to hunt. He would go out and be gone all day and perhaps at night bring home a deer he had killed, which his father liked to eat. Isaac was very fond of this tall, strong son, but Rebecca loved Jacob best. He was quiet and gentle, and liked to stay at home with his mother. As he grew older, he didn't care to go hunting as Esau did, but instead he took care of the sheep and little lambs.

Now, I am sorry to have to tell you of something these two brothers did that was wrong. In that country the oldest son in each family had what was called the birthright, which means that because he was the oldest, all the other children looked up to him and did what he wanted them to do. When his father died, he had twice as much of his silver and gold and of his flocks and herds as was given to the others, so it was a very nice thing to be the oldest son. Esau was older than Jacob, so the birthright belonged to him.

One day he went out hunting, and while he was gone, Jacob gathered some lentils, or small red beans, and boiled them, making a delicious thick soup. Just as he was about to eat this, Esau came home. He had hunted all day but hadn't seen any deer or other animals which he could bring home for food. He was very tired and so hungry he felt almost starved. As he

came near home, he smelled the delicious soup his brother had been making. When he entered the tent, it looked so good he wanted some to eat very much. He had never seen anything just like it and he didn't know its name, so he cried out: "Give me some of that red, for I am almost dying of hunger!"

Do you think Jacob replied: "Yes, indeed, dear brother, take all you wish. I am so glad to have it for you"?

No, children, I am very sorry he did not say this. Instead he said, "Will you give me your birthright for it?"

Of course Esau shouldn't have given away that precious birthright just for a dish of red soup, but it seemed to him he would die if he didn't have it. That was foolish, was it not? He therefore answered: "If I die, the birthright will do me no good, so you may have it."

Jacob said, "You promise."

And Esau answered, "Yes, I promise I will give it to you."

So Jacob gave him the soup. I am sorry Esau didn't think more of his birthright, and I am very, very sorry Jacob was so mean and unkind that he made his brother pay so much for the soup, instead of giving it to him.

XX

JACOB'S DECEPTION

Genesis 27 : 1-41

Picture—ISAAC BLESSING JACOB—*Doré*

STORY

IN our last story we heard how unkind Jacob was to his brother in getting him to sell his birth-right for a dish of soup. To-day I must tell you of another wrong that Jacob did. It happened many years after our last story, when Isaac was an old man, feeble and almost blind. He knew that very soon he would go to be with his father Abraham and with the dear heavenly Father, and he wanted first to bless his son Esau, whom he so loved. He thought he would ask him to do something to please him before he gave him this blessing, so he called him and said: "Behold now I am old and I know not what day I shall die. Now, therefore, take your bow and arrows and go out and kill a deer and cook it, so I may have the delicious meat I like so much. Then I will give you my blessing."

I am sure Esau loved his father and was glad to do this for him, so he hastened away. But meantime Rebecca happened to hear what Isaac said to Esau, and as she loved Jacob best, she

wanted him to have this blessing instead of his brother. She therefore called Jacob and said: "Go quickly and bring me two little kids from the flocks and I will cook them and you can take them to your father. Then he will think you are Esau and will give you the blessing."

It wasn't right to plan to deceive Isaac, was it? Jacob was afraid, not because it was wrong to do this, but because he thought his father would find out that he was not Esau. But his mother told him that he would have no trouble. He brought the kids, therefore, and his mother cooked them carefully, so they would taste like deer. Then she put one of Esau's coats on Jacob and he took the meat, went into his father's room and said, "My father."

Isaac answered, "I am here. Who are you?"

Then, children, Jacob told a wicked lie, for he said: "I am your oldest son Esau. I have done what you asked me to do and now please eat this deer's meat which I have brought to you and then give me your blessing."

Isaac asked, "How did you get it so quickly?"

And Jacob answered, "The Lord helped me to find it."

Then Isaac asked, "Are you really my son Esau?"

And Jacob replied, "Yes, I am."

Isaac said, "Then I will eat of the meat you have brought."

After he had eaten, he told his son to come and kiss him and then, as Jacob knelt before him, he said: "The Lord bless you. May the dew of heaven cause the corn to grow, so you will have rich harvests. May people serve you and may your brothers always do what you wish."

After receiving the blessing, Jacob left his father, and very soon Esau came back with the deer he had killed, which he cooked as his father liked. Then he carried it in to his father and said: "Here is the meat you wished, my father. Eat it and then give me your blessing."

Isaac was so surprised and asked, "Who are you?"

And Esau answered, "I am Esau, your oldest son."

Then Isaac said: "But who came into my room just now and brought me meat and said he was Esau? I have given him the blessing."

Then Esau cried out, "O my father, bless me, too!"

But his father answered, "Alas, I have given the blessing to Jacob."

Esau was very angry and said: "He took away my birthright and now he has taken away my blessing, also. But oh, father, haven't you any blessing for me?"

Then his father said: "I have given the best

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things to your brother and I cannot take them back. But I will bless you, too, my son."

Esau hated Jacob because he had taken his blessing from him and he thought: "I cannot hurt him now, because it would make my dear father sad. But when my father dies, I will kill him."

Next Sunday I will tell you how sorry Jacob was that he had done this wrong to his brother and how many hard things happened to him.

XXI

JACOB'S DREAM

Genesis 27 : 41-46 ; 28 : 1-5, 10-22 (R. V.)

Picture—JACOB'S DREAM—*Murillo*

STORY

I PROMISED to tell you to-day, children, of all the trouble which came to Jacob because he had done wrong. You remember that he told his father a wicked lie and made him believe he was Esau, so he might receive his brother's blessing. You remember, too, Esau was so angry that he said he would kill Jacob. But Rebecca loved Jacob dearly, and when she was told that his brother meant to kill him, she was very much frightened. She sent for him and told him to go quickly to her brother's home, far, far away, and stay there until Esau should forget the wrong that had been done him. She promised that she would then send for him, and she hoped she could do so soon.

She did not wish him to go without his father's knowing of it, neither did she wish to tell Isaac that Esau meant to kill his brother. So she said to his father that she thought Jacob should not marry a woman from the strangers among whom

they lived, but should go back to her home for his wife.

This plan pleased Isaac, so he sent for Jacob and told him to go to his uncle's home and find a wife there. He then blessed him and prayed that the God who had loved Abraham might love him, too, and always be with him.

Do you remember, children, that when Abraham's servant went to get a wife for Isaac, he took ten camels, many servants, a great deal of food and many presents? But when Jacob started, although he was Isaac's son and not a servant, he hadn't even one camel on which to ride! He slipped away from home quietly, taking only a little bread and oil and a few dried dates. Do you know why he had to go thus? It was because he had done such a great wrong to his brother and he was afraid Esau would follow him and kill him. He did not dare even to walk in the road but had to take lonely paths which made the journey harder and more dangerous.

When he had walked all day and was very, very tired, he stopped for the night. But he did not dare to look for a tent in which to sleep, as he was still afraid his brother might find him, so he just lay down on the ground. And what do you suppose he had for a pillow? Why, only a large stone, which he found near him. I am sure he felt very sorry he had done wrong and so



JACOB'S DREAM

had to leave his home and his father and mother whom he so dearly loved. I think that before he went to sleep, he asked God to forgive him and help him to be a better man.

While he slept, he dreamed such a wonderful dream. He thought he saw a great ladder, reaching from the ground where he lay way up to heaven, and there were many angels, in shining white garments, going up and coming down. From the top of the ladder, God spoke to him and said that because he was sorry he had done wrong, He would bless him as He had blessed his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac. He promised that He would be with him and keep him safe and bring him back to his father's home. He also said that he should have many children and that all the country from which he was now going should be given to them.

When Jacob awoke, he remembered his wonderful dream and he was frightened. He said: "The Lord is in this place and I did not know it. This is God's house and the very gate into heaven."

He wanted to make an altar, which you remember people then used instead of a church, so he took the stone which had been his pillow and stood it up and called the place Bethel, which means "The house of God." Then he said if God would be with him and keep him safe on his long journey and give him food to eat and

clothes to wear and bring him back to his father's home, then he would make this stone an altar where he could worship God.

He promised, also, that of everything God gave him, he would give back one tenth to God, that is, if he had ten pieces of money, he would give one piece to God, and if he had ten sheep, he would give one sheep to Him. Of course he could not really give them to God, but he could give them to the poor or use them in some way which would help others and thus please the dear heavenly Father.

XXII

JACOB AND RACHEL

Genesis 29 : 1-14

STORY

THE next morning after Jacob had his beautiful dream, he started again on his long journey. When he first left home, he felt very sad. It was so hard to part from his dear father and mother and to go so far from home because he had done wrong. But now he was happier, for God had promised to be with him and to bring him back to his home again. He walked quickly, therefore, and after he had travelled many, many days, he saw, in the distance, the city of Haran, where his uncle Laban lived. How glad he must have been that his long journey was almost over and that soon he would be among friends.

He went to the very same well outside the city, where Eliezer had waited to meet Rebecca, so many, many years before. Some flocks of sheep were lying near this well, with shepherds watching them. The top of the well was covered with a heavy stone, so no sand or dust could blow in. Jacob asked the men where their home was and they answered that they lived in Haran.

“Do you know Laban?” said he.

"Yes, we know him," replied the shepherds.

"Is he well?" asked Jacob.

"Yes, he is well," they answered, "and his daughter Rachel is soon coming with his sheep."

Jacob then inquired why they were waiting, instead of watering their sheep and going back to the fields. They said that they only uncovered the well when all the flocks were gathered together, so they could water them all at once and as Rachel had not come, they were waiting for her. Just as they were speaking, Rachel came with her father's sheep.

In that country the young girls often took care of the sheep and the dear little lambs. They would go out early in the morning, when the sun was painting the sky such beautiful colours, and they would stay in the fields watching the flocks till the sun went down and it was time to put them in the folds where they stayed all night.

I wish you could have seen Rachel, children. She was very beautiful, with fair skin, long, dark hair and lovely dark eyes. As soon as he saw her coming, Jacob rolled the heavy stone away and watered the sheep for her. Then he kissed her and told her that he was her own cousin. When Rachel heard that he was Rebecca's son, she ran quickly to tell her father, for she knew that he would be as glad to see Jacob as she was. Laban was indeed pleased to hear that his nephew had come. He ran out to meet him, put his arm

about him and kissed him just as if he had been his own son.

Then they all went to Laban's home and there Jacob told his uncle of his father and mother and of their home. He told him, also, how he had deceived his father and received the blessing that should have been his brother's. But I am sure he said he was very sorry he had done wrong and meant to be a better man. Then he told how God had promised to be with him and bless him. Laban said he was very glad to have his nephew with them and he hoped he would make them a long visit, so Jacob stayed and helped take care of the flocks.

XXIII

JACOB AT THE HOME OF LABAN

Genesis 29 : 15-30 ; 30 : 25-34 ; 31 : 1-55

Picture—SHEPHERD OF THE PYRENEES—*Rosa Bonheur*¹

STORY

WHILE Jacob was with Laban, as I told you last Sunday, he helped take care of the flocks. Perhaps when he did this, he was with Rachel and I am sure this made him happy. He had loved his beautiful cousin when he first saw her and as he knew her better, he loved her more and more.

After a time his uncle told Jacob that he ought not to work for nothing and asked what he should give him. What do you think Jacob said? He told his uncle that he wanted his beautiful cousin Rachel more than anything else and he said he would work seven years if he could then have her for his wife. Laban answered that he would rather give her to him than to any one else and that he might have her at the end of that time.

¹ This picture in the Brown collection or any other of sheep might be shown with this story.

So for seven long years Jacob worked and it was hard work, too. In summer he suffered because it was so hot and in winter because it was so very cold. He often could not sleep at night because he had to watch the flocks to see that no harm came to them and sometimes he had to drive away wild animals that came to kill them. But he loved Rachel so much that these long years seemed but as a few days to him.

At last the time was over and Jacob went to Laban and said: "I have served you seven years as I promised to do. Now give me Rachel for my wife."

Then Laban made a great party and Jacob was married. But when his wife took off her veil, he found Laban had given him Leah, the older sister, instead of Rachel. Leah was not beautiful like her sister and Jacob did not love her. He was very angry and went to Laban and said: "Why have you done this? I worked seven years for Rachel and you have given me Leah!"

Laban answered: "Leah is older than Rachel and she must be married first, but if you will work seven more years for me, you may have Rachel also."

Now a man has only one wife, but in those days they often had more than one. Jacob loved Rachel so much that he was willing to work even seven more years for her. Perhaps he remem-

bered how he had deceived his father, when Laban did this wrong to him.

As the years passed, Leah had four little boys but poor Rachel had no children. She wanted a little son very much and at last God gave her one, whom she called Joseph, and both she and Jacob were very happy. Jacob always especially loved this little boy, both because he was such a dear little fellow and also because he loved Rachel, his mother, so much.

When Jacob had worked another seven years, he went to Laban and said: "I have worked for you as long as I promised and now I wish to take Leah and Rachel and all my children and return to my father's home."

I am sure he wanted to see his dear father and mother again and perhaps he thought his brother had forgotten the wrong he had done him. But Laban said: "God has blessed me because you have been with me and I would like to have you stay longer. What pay shall I give you for your work?"

Jacob answered: "I would like some of the sheep and lambs for my own but I will take only those which are speckled and spotted, leaving the others for you."

Laban said, "Very well, you may have them."

After a time, however, Jacob had so many sheep and lambs that Laban's sons became jeal-

ous and said: "See Jacob has taken all these sheep and lambs that were our father's."

Laban, too, wasn't kind to him and at last God told him to return to his father's home. He asked Leah and Rachel if they would go with him and they said they would. He was afraid his uncle might not let them go or might keep his flocks, if he asked him, so he waited until Laban was away from home and then they started. Rachel and Leah and the little children rode on tall camels, while Jacob and his big boys walked. There were other camels to carry the tents and all the things, and shepherds to take care of the flocks.

But after three days Laban was told that Jacob had gone away. He was very angry and calling his sons and friends to go with him, he followed Jacob. They could go faster than Jacob, because they had no children or flocks with them, and after they had travelled for seven days, they came to a mountain and there, just in front of them, they saw Jacob and all his men, the camels and flocks. It was night, so Laban decided to rest and the next day he thought he would make Jacob go back with him.

But that night God came to Laban and told him to do no harm to Jacob. So the next morning, instead of speaking angrily and attacking him, Laban only asked Jacob why he had gone without letting him even say good-bye to his

daughters. Jacob replied: "Though I have worked for you for so long a time, you have not treated me kindly and I was afraid if I asked to leave, that you would not let me go."

Laban then told of his dream in which God had said he must be kind to Jacob, so they both promised that they would always be friends. They piled up some stones to help them remember this promise and they called the place Mizpah, which means "May the Lord watch over us when we are separated from each other." They ate their breakfast together and then Laban kissed Jacob, his daughters and the children and returned to his home, while Jacob went on his way.

XXIV

THE MEETING OF JACOB AND ESAU

Genesis 32-33

Picture—PRAYER OF JACOB—*Doré*

STORY

WHEN Jacob left Laban's home, he was afraid that Laban might follow him and do him harm and also that when he reached his father's home, Esau might still be angry with him. Last Sunday we heard that God kept Laban from harming Jacob and that they parted from each other as friends. But now Jacob must continue his journey and he was still afraid of his brother.

You remember that the first night after Jacob had left home, so many years before, he had had a wonderful dream in which he had seen a ladder stretching up to heaven and beautiful angels going up and down. Now, as he returned home, he dreamed again and saw many, many angels near him. I think they must have brought him comfort and made him feel that God had sent them to take care of him.

The next morning he sent messengers to Esau to tell him that he was coming home, after being gone twenty years, that he had cattle, sheep and

many servants and that he hoped his brother would receive him kindly. The messengers came back and told Jacob that Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred men but they did not know whether he was coming to welcome him or to fight against him.

Poor Jacob was very much afraid, for he remembered the great wrong he had done his brother and he thought he might still be angry. He divided his people into two companies, giving each of them half of his flocks and herds, so that if Esau killed one of them, the other might still get away.

Then, children, he did the best thing he could have done. He knelt down and asked God to help him. He said: "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, Thou didst tell me to return to my home and didst promise to take care of me. Though I did wrong, Thou didst bless me and didst give me my wives and children and all my flocks and cattle. Wilt Thou not still be kind to me and keep my brother Esau from doing me harm?"

When he had prayed, he decided to send a large present to his brother, so he chose two hundred goats and two hundred sheep, thirty camels and many other animals and told his servants to drive them on. When they met Esau and were asked where they were going and to whom these animals belonged, they were to

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answer : " They are Jacob's and he sends them as a present to his brother Esau. He, himself, is coming just behind us."

He hoped this present would please his brother so much that he would forgive him. After he had started these servants, he sent all his other men and also his wives and children a little way ahead. Then he stayed alone and all that night he prayed to God, begging Him to help him. At last, when the morning came, God promised to bless him and gave him a new name, Israel, which means a man whom God thinks great.

The next morning he saw his brother coming and he went ahead and bowed low seven times, as people did in those days when they met a great man. But Esau ran to meet him and put his arms about him and kissed him, for he wasn't angry any more, but instead he loved his brother.

Then he asked who Leah and Rachel and the children were and Jacob answered that they were the wives and children whom God had given him. They came near and bowed to Esau and I am sure he was glad to see them. Then Esau asked what all the cattle meant which he had just seen and Jacob answered, " They are a present for you."

Esau said : " I have enough, my brother ; keep them yourself."

But Jacob begged him to take them because he wanted to show him how glad he was that his

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brother was no longer angry with him, and at last Esau did so.

Then Esau said, "Let us travel on now together."

But Jacob answered that he must go very slowly because his children and the little lambs in the flocks would suffer if they should go too fast. So Esau said good-bye and went back to his home but he and Jacob were always good friends after that.

Jacob travelled on a little farther and then he stopped for awhile and built a house for himself and booths for the cattle where they could stay and rest.

XXV

JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 35 : 6-19 ; 37 : 1-35

Picture—JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT—*Doré*¹

STORY

Do you remember, children, the wonderful dream that Jacob had at Bethel, as he was going to his uncle's home? He then promised God that if He would bring him back to his own country again, he would build an altar for him at that place. After he had met his brother and had rested awhile, he went with all his family to Bethel. Here he built an altar, as he had promised to do, and worshipped God, thanking Him for taking care of him through all the long years he had been away and for bringing him back safely to his own home. Then God promised that He would still be with him and would give all the beautiful country, to which he had come, to him and to his sons.

Not long after this a great sorrow came to Jacob, for his wife, Rachel, was taken to live with the dear Father in heaven. Jacob missed her very much, for he had loved her dearly ever since

¹ The picture called *The Despair of Jacob*, by Schopin, might also be shown.

he first met her at the well. She had two little boys, Joseph and Benjamin, and Jacob loved them better than any of his other children.

It is of Joseph, one of these boys, that I want to tell you to-day. His father had made him a beautiful long coat of many bright colours, much prettier than his other sons had. His brothers were jealous because their father loved him best and the Bible says they hated him and spoke very unkindly to him. One time Joseph dreamed that he was like a great king and that his brothers bowed down before him. He told this dream to them and it made them very angry. They said, "Will you indeed rule over us?"

Not long after this his brothers, who were shepherds, took their flocks to Shechem, a place at quite a distance from their home, where they could get better grass. When they had been gone some time, their father wanted to hear from them, so he called Joseph, who was now a tall, beautiful boy of seventeen, and said, "I want to send you to your brothers."

Joseph knew how they hated him and perhaps he didn't like to go, but he was always ready to do just what his father wished, so he said, "Here am I" (that means "I am ready to go").

Jacob said: "Go and see if your brothers are well and if their flocks are well and then come and tell me of them."

Joseph started at once and went to Shechem

but he couldn't find his brothers. As he was looking for them, he met a man who told him they had gone on still farther with their flocks. He had already walked a great many miles and was very weary but he knew how much his father wanted to hear about them, so he followed to this other place.

When his brothers saw him coming, they said : " Here comes Joseph, the dreamer ; let us kill him and then we will see if he will be greater than we."

Wasn't it very wicked of them to plan to do such a dreadful thing ! But Reuben, the oldest brother, was not so cruel as the others and he wanted to save Joseph, so he said : " Don't let us kill him but let us instead throw him into a pit " (a deep well where there was no water).

He thought he could come later and get him out. The brothers said : " Very well, we will do so."

When Joseph came to them, they took off the pretty coat their father had made for him and then, though he cried and begged them to let him go home, they put him down into the pit. After this they all sat down to eat their lunch and while they were eating, a party of merchants came along. They were men who went from place to place, selling fragrant spices and other things. They were now travelling to Egypt and when the brothers saw them, they said : " Let us sell

Joseph to these merchants; that will be better than letting him die in the pit."

So they drew him out of the deep pit and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver and he was taken to Egypt to be a slave, or servant. Reuben was away while all this was happening and when he came back to take Joseph out of the pit and carry him safely home, he found that he was gone. When he heard what his brothers had done with him, he felt greatly troubled and said: "What shall we say to our father who loves Joseph so much?"

The brothers answered: "Let us put some blood on Joseph's coat and make our father believe a wild animal has killed him."

They did this and carried the coat to Jacob. You remember how much he loved Joseph, both because he was the son of Rachel, who was so dear to him, and also because he was such a good and beautiful boy. He felt dreadfully when he heard that his dear son had been killed and he mourned for him many, many days. His sons and daughters tried to comfort him but they could not. Next Sunday we will hear what happened to Joseph in Egypt.

XXVI

JOSEPH IN EGYPT

Genesis 39; 40; 41: 1-44

Picture—JOSEPH INTERPRETING PHARAOH'S
DREAM—*Doré*

STORY

WHEN the merchants had bought Joseph, they took him on their long, long journey. He was treated kindly and though he was sad and lonely, he must have seen many things to interest him as they travelled on. At last they came to Egypt, a wonderful country over which a king ruled, whose name was Pharaoh. He was very rich and powerful and had many soldiers. One of his officers was named Potiphar and when Joseph reached Egypt, he was sold to this man. He must have greatly missed his home and his father who so loved him. But he still tried to do right and to please God, as he had always done, and God blessed him, for He made his master very kind to him.

At first Joseph was given simple things to do, as he was only a boy of seventeen, but as he always did everything as well as he could, his master trusted him more and more. When he grew older, he was placed over all the other

servants and the Bible tells us that Potiphar saw that God was with him and that all that he did was well done.

God blessed Potiphar because Joseph was with him. But after a time some one, who did not like Joseph, told Potiphar that he had done something wrong, which was not true. Potiphar was very angry when he heard this and put Joseph in prison. Joseph must have found this very hard to bear, when he knew that he had done nothing wrong, but he tried even in prison to please God. Soon the jailor found that he could trust Joseph, so he gave him work to do and at last he placed all the other prisoners in his charge.

Some of the king's servants were in prison and one night one of them had a dream. He was troubled and asked Joseph if he could tell him what it meant. Joseph said that perhaps God would help him tell the meaning. When the servant told his dream, Joseph said that it meant that within three days he would be taken out of prison and would again serve the king. "Then won't you please remember me," he asked, "and tell the king I did no wrong and beg him to take me out of prison?"

Sure enough, in just three days the king gave a large party on his birthday and sent for this servant who was in prison and let him serve him again. But, children, he forgot all about Joseph and did not ask the king to help him.



JOSEPH INTERPRETING PHARAOH'S DREAM

For two more long years Joseph had to stay in prison. Then the king had a dream and though he asked all the wise men, no one could tell him what it meant. At last the servant who had known Joseph came to him and said: "O king, when I was in prison, I had a dream and a young man named Joseph told me its meaning. What he said all came true. He begged me to ask you to help him but I forgot all about it until now. I think this man might tell you what your dream means."

The king sent quickly for Joseph and as soon as he had washed and put on fresh clothing, he came before the king. Pharaoh asked if he could tell what his dream meant and Joseph replied: "I cannot help you but God will tell you its meaning."

Then the king told his dream and Joseph said that it meant that there would be seven years of plenty in Egypt, when there would be a great deal of corn and other grains, more than people needed. But afterwards there would come seven years of famine when nothing would grow and it would be hard to get food. The king asked, "What had best be done?"

Joseph answered: "Choose some wise man who shall go about the country and see that corn is put into great storehouses during the seven years when there is plenty, so that the people may have food when the famine comes."

The king and all his people thought this a very good plan and, children, whom do you suppose was chosen to do this great work? Just listen and I will tell you. Pharaoh said to his wise men: "Can we find any one better than this man who has just told me what my dream means? I am sure God is with him."

So he turned to Joseph and said: "Because God has helped you to tell me what is to happen in my country and what is the best thing to do to keep my people from suffering, I will give you this great work to do. You shall be ruler over all this land and no one will be greater than you, except myself."

Then, children, Pharaoh gave Joseph his own ring and put beautiful clothes upon him and a gold chain about his neck. And he made him ride in a chariot, or beautiful carriage, right behind his own and all the people bowed low when they saw him. Wasn't that a wonderful change for Joseph; from being shut up in prison, he became the greatest man in all Egypt except the king! I think God blessed him and made him great because whether he was at home with his father or a slave in prison, he had always tried to do what was right.

XXVII

JOSEPH AS PRIME MINISTER

Genesis 41 : 45-57 ; 42 : 1-38

STORY

As soon as he had been made ruler, Joseph began to work for Pharaoh and the Egyptians. He went about through the country and bought all the corn which the people did not need to use and put it in great buildings, called storehouses. At first he knew how much he had, but at last there was more than could be counted because there were such rich harvests.

During this time Pharaoh gave Joseph a beautiful woman, called Asenath, for his wife. When his first little son was born, Joseph called him Manasseh, which means "to forget," for he said God had made him forget all the unkindness which his brothers had shown him, and all the hard days he had spent in prison. His next baby boy he called Ephraim, which means "a blessing," because God had blessed him and made him such a great man. Every time he looked at his dear little boys and spoke their names, he wanted to remember God's goodness to him.

After there had been seven years of plenty in

Egypt, during which corn and everything else had grown so well, the famine began. There was no rain and nothing would grow, so the people had little to eat. But Joseph had been wise enough to save up so much corn that he could help them, so they all came to him and he sold them this for food.

The famine was not only in Egypt, but even in the country where Joseph's father and brothers lived. Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, so he told his sons to go down to that country and buy some. He would not let Benjamin go with them, for he was afraid something might harm him, and as he thought Joseph was dead, he loved this little boy, Rachel's other son, more than ever.

The ten brothers started and took the long journey to Egypt. Many other people, also, were going to this country, and when they reached there, Joseph sold food to them all. When his brothers came, they bowed low before him, for of course they did not know that he was their brother. They did not expect to find that the little boy, whom they had sold to be a slave, had become such a great man. Joseph, however, knew them at once, for though they had grown older, they were not so much changed. But he wanted to find out whether they were still wicked and cruel as they had been when they sold him, so he did not let them know who he

was. He spoke roughly to them and asked, "Where did you come from?"

They answered, "We came from the land of Canaan and we wish to buy food."

He said: "No, no, you are bad men; you are come to look over this country so that later you can fight against it."

But they replied: "Oh, no, my lord, we are true men. We are twelve brothers and our father lives in Canaan."

Oh, how glad Joseph must have been to learn that his dear father was still alive, for he had heard nothing of him in all the long years that he had been away.

"Our youngest brother," they said, "is with our father and one brother is dead" (they meant Joseph, whom they thought was no longer living).

But Joseph wanted to see if they really told the truth, so he still spoke roughly and said: "I will see if what you say is true. You cannot go home till one of you brings your youngest brother to me."

Then he put them all in prison. I think he wanted to find out just what kind of men they were now. After three days he came to them and said that he would keep one of them, Simeon, in prison, and that the others might take corn for their families and return home and then bring back their youngest brother. (I am sure he

wanted to see Benjamin, who was only a little boy when he left home.) When he told them this, the brothers all said: "This trouble has come to us because we were so cruel to Joseph and sold him."

And Reuben said: "Did not I tell you not to do such a wrong or else trouble would come?"

When they spoke together, they did not know that Joseph could understand them, because he had talked only as the Egyptians spoke, and they did not think he could speak their language. But when he heard what they said, he went out where they could not see him and wept, because he remembered the dreadful day when they sold him. But I know he still loved them, even though they had been so cruel to him. He then told his servants to fill the sacks his brothers had brought with corn, and to put the money they had paid back in the sacks, because he wished to give them the corn instead of selling it to them. As soon as they had received the sacks, the brothers put them on their mules and started on their journey.

When they reached home, they were all greatly troubled to find the money in their sacks, for they were afraid the ruler of Egypt would think they had not paid for the corn. They told their father how roughly he had spoken to them, calling them bad men, but they had answered that they were true and honest. They had also told

him that they were twelve brothers, one of whom was at home with their father. When he had heard of this youngest brother, the ruler had said he would see whether they spoke the truth, so he made them leave Simeon behind in prison, until they came again with Benjamin. Poor Jacob was distressed when he heard this and said that his dear youngest son should not go to Egypt, for he feared he would lose him as he had lost Joseph. I will tell you next Sunday more of this story.

XXVIII

JOSEPH MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 43 : 44 : 45 : 1-15

Picture—JOSEPH MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN TO
HIS BRETHREN—*Doré*

STORY

You remember, children, how troubled Jacob was when he heard that the Egyptian ruler wanted to see Benjamin, and that he said his youngest son could not go with his brothers to Egypt. But after some time, when the corn they had bought was all gone, Jacob said to his sons, "Go down to Egypt and buy more."

But Judah answered: "We cannot go unless we take Benjamin, for the ruler said he would not see us unless we brought him. If you will let him go, I will take good care of him, and I myself will die rather than let anything happen to him."

At last Jacob said: "Well, you may take him, but it will break my heart if any harm comes to him."

He then prepared a present for the ruler of the best things that he had—some sweet spices, some honey and different kinds of nuts—and told his

sons to take money to pay for the corn they had had and that which they wished to buy.

When they reached Egypt, and Joseph saw that they had brought Benjamin, he told his servant to take them to his own home, as he wished them to dine with him. The brothers were frightened when they were taken to the ruler's house and thought it was because the money had been found in their sacks. They told his butler how they had found the money and that they had brought it back again. And he said: "Do not be afraid; I knew you paid the money before."

Then Simeon was brought out of prison, and I am sure he was very glad to see his brothers again. They all wondered at the beauty of the ruler's home. Tall trees and lovely flowers were in the large gardens and there was a little pond in the centre which kept everything fresh and green. The brothers were given water to wash their hands and feet when they entered the house. Here they found thick, soft carpets and rugs, sofas and couches of different woods beautifully carved, and tables of ivory and gold, while vases of lovely flowers were to be seen everywhere. The brothers, who had lived in simple tents, must have thought all this very grand, and they were still more astonished when they were invited to eat with the ruler.

When Joseph came in, the brothers bowed

low before him. (Do you remember how he had dreamed, when he was a little boy, that they should do this, and now the dream had come true.) Then they gave him the present their father had sent him and he asked, "Is your father well?"

How glad he must have been to hear them answer, "He is in good health."

When he saw Benjamin, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you told me?"

And then he said to Benjamin, "God be gracious to thee, my son."

But, children, he was so glad to see this dear young brother again that he could not keep back his tears, so he went into his bedroom to weep. Sometimes we weep for joy as well as for sorrow. He did not wish his brothers to know he had been crying, so he washed his face and then came and asked them out to dinner.

The dining-room had beautiful pictures on the walls and was all decorated in gold. Many, many servants waited upon them, placing wreaths of lovely blossoms upon their heads and garlands of roses about their shoulders, and bringing them delicious food. Musicians played sweet music as they ate. Joseph did not eat with them, for, as he was a ruler, he had to sit at a table by himself; but what surprised his brothers most of all was that they were seated just as they were at home, the oldest at the end of the table, then the next

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older, and so on down to Benjamin. They could not imagine how the ruler knew which one was the oldest. Joseph was very kind to them and they all had such a happy time at dinner.

When they had finished, Joseph told his servant to fill their sacks and to put all the money they had brought back into the sacks, as again he wanted to give them the corn. He told him, also, to put his own silver cup into Benjamin's sack, because he wanted to see if his brothers would leave him if he was in trouble.

Early the next morning the brothers started on their journey. Soon after they had gone, Joseph told his servant to follow them and ask why they had stolen his cup when he had been so kind to them. When the servant asked them this, the brothers replied: "We would never do such a thing. You know we brought back the money we found in our sacks, and do you think we would steal the ruler's cup! Just look in our sacks, and if you find it, the one who has taken it shall die and we will all be the ruler's slaves."

"No," answered the servant, "he in whose sack I find the cup shall be a slave, but all the rest of you shall be free."

So he began with Reuben's, the oldest, and looked in every man's sack and, at last, in Benjamin's, it was found. The brothers were all greatly surprised and shocked, but do you think they left their little brother? No, indeed, they

were no longer as cruel as they had been when they sold Joseph. They all went back with him to the ruler's house and when they saw him, they knelt down before him and Judah said: "We do not know what to say! We will all be your servants."

"No," answered Joseph, "only the man in whose sack the cup was found shall be my servant."

Then, children, Judah told Joseph just how much their father loved this little boy, that he couldn't bear to let him come with them and that it would kill him if they should return without him. He then asked Joseph to let Benjamin go home and to keep him in his place as a servant. (Perhaps your mamma will read you all the beautiful words which Judah spoke—Genesis 44: 18-34.)

When he had finished speaking, Joseph saw how good and kind they had all become and he wanted them to know that he was their own brother, so he sent his servants out of the room. Then he wept again and said: "I am Joseph. Is my father really alive?"

But his brothers were so astonished they could not answer. They were afraid, too, for they thought, if this ruler is really Joseph, he will punish us because we were so cruel to him when he was a little boy. Then Joseph said, "Come near me."

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And when they came nearer, he said: "I am really Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. You meant to do me harm but God has blessed me and made me a great ruler. Now go home quickly and bring my father back with you and I will give you a home in Egypt where I can take care of you, for there are still to be five more years of famine."

Then, children, he put his arms about Benjamin and wept and his little brother wept, too. After this he kissed them all and they had a long, long talk together. Just think how many things Joseph had to tell them of his life in Egypt. He wanted to hear, also, from them all about his dear father and their life at home.

XXIX

JOSEPH'S KINDNESS TO HIS FATHER

Genesis 45 : 16 to 50 : 26

Picture—JACOB GOING DOWN TO EGYPT—*Doré*

STORY

PHARAOH soon heard that Joseph's brothers had come and he was glad, for he was a very kind king and he loved Joseph, who had worked so faithfully for him. He sent for him and said: "Tell your brothers to take wagons and go to their home and bring back their father and their wives and children. They need not trouble to bring their tents and furniture, for I will give them all that they need when they reach here."

Wasn't that kind of Pharaoh! So Joseph gave his brothers wagons to bring all their families, and food to last until they returned to Egypt. He gave them many presents, also—beautiful clothing and money—and Benjamin received more than the others because Joseph loved him best.

When the brothers reached their home and told their father the wonderful news that Joseph was alive and was a great ruler in Egypt, Jacob could not believe it. You know that for many, many years he had thought that this dear son

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was dead, so now it seemed impossible that he could really be alive. But when he saw the wagons and all the presents Joseph had sent, at last he was sure it was true and he said, "Joseph is really alive and I will go and see him before I die."

It was hard for such an old man to take so long a journey, therefore they travelled slowly. The sheep and lambs, too, could not go fast as it would kill them. Jacob rode one of his great camels and the women and children went in the wagons Joseph had sent. All the brothers were married and had children and these with the servants made a large company.

One night when they stopped to rest, God spoke to Jacob (perhaps it was in a dream that he heard His voice). He said, "Jacob, Jacob."

And Jacob answered, "Here am I."

And He said: "I am God, the God of thy father; fear not to go down into Egypt, for I will there make of thee a great nation."

He promised, also, that he should see Joseph and that later his children should return to the land where they had been living and that all that rich country should be theirs. Jacob must have been very happy to have God promise him all these things and I am sure he was especially glad to know that he would reach Egypt safely and really see his dear son Joseph.

When they came near the end of their journey, Jacob sent Judah ahead to tell Joseph they were

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coming. As soon as Joseph heard this, he started in his chariot to meet his father. I cannot tell you, children, how very glad he was to see him. The Bible tells us he put his arms about him and wept for some time and Jacob said that God had made him very happy because he had seen his dear son whom for so long a time he had thought dead.

After he had greeted his father, Joseph took five of his brothers with him and went to Pharaoh. When the king asked them what their work was, they answered that they were shepherds. Pharaoh then said that they might live in Goshen, the very best part of Egypt for their cattle and flocks. They must have been very much pleased at his kindness.

Joseph then brought his dear old father to the king and Jacob blessed Pharaoh and I am sure he thanked him for all his kindness to his son. The king asked Jacob how old he was and Jacob replied that he was one hundred and thirty years old but his father had lived to be still older. This seemed very wonderful to Pharaoh, for people did not live to be so old in Egypt. Again Jacob spread out his hands and asked God to bless the king. Then Joseph took his father and brothers to the beautiful part of the country which Pharaoh had said they might have and there he cared for them very tenderly, giving them food and everything else that would make them happy.

The famine grew worse and worse in Egypt. At first, when the people came to Joseph, they had money to pay for the corn they bought from him. But after a time their money was all gone. Then they offered him their cattle which they could not feed and for which he gave them corn. At last they came to him and said: "Our cattle are all gone and we have nothing but our land. Won't you give us food for it?"

So Joseph bought their land. When this was sold, they asked if they might earn their food by working for the king and Joseph gave them work to do. Through the seven long years when no rain fell and nothing grew, Joseph fed all the people who lived in Egypt and in other countries. He could do this because he had been wise enough to save so much corn when there was plenty and put it in the great storehouses.

But at last the welcome rain came. Then Joseph told the people that they might have their lands again and he gave them corn to plant. But he said that because the king had bought their lands, they must now give him some of their corn every year. They could divide that which grew into five parts and four parts they might keep for themselves, giving one part to the king. The people were very willing to do this because Joseph had given them food through all the long years of famine.

One day a messenger came to Joseph and told

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him that his father was ill. He took his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and went quickly to him. Then he and his dear old father had a last beautiful talk together. Jacob spoke to Joseph of all God's goodness to him and said: "I did not ever expect to see you alive again and God has not only let me see you but your two sons, also."

Then he put his arms about Manasseh and Ephraim and kissed and blessed them, asking God always to be with them. After this he called for his other sons and blessed them, also, but he gave to Joseph the best blessing of all because he loved him so dearly. He then went to be with the dear heavenly Father.

When Jacob was dead, the brothers were again afraid, for they thought: "Perhaps Joseph was only good to us because our father was living and now he will punish us for being so cruel to him and selling him to the merchants when he was a boy."

So they sent word to Joseph and begged him to forgive them. Joseph was grieved because they were afraid of him and he said: "Fear not; I will take care of you and your children."

And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. After this they spent many happy years together. Joseph lived to be over a hundred years old and he saw not only his grandchildren, but his great-grandchildren, also. They all loved

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him and used to climb on his knees and put their little arms about his neck, so his last years were among the happiest he had ever known.

XXX

THE BIRTH OF MOSES

Exodus 1:6-22; 2:1-4

Picture—FINDING OF MOSES—*Paul Delaroche*

STORY

I TOLD you last Sunday what happy times Joseph's brothers had in Egypt. The king was very kind to them and Joseph, who was the great ruler, took loving care of them and their families. But after a time Joseph went to live with the dear heavenly Father and later the king, also, died. Many, many years passed and a great change came to the Israelites. You remember that God gave Jacob a new name, Israel, when he was going to meet Esau, so his sons were called the children of Israel or Israelites. Their sons and grandsons, also, were known by this same name.

Their numbers had become so large in the years that had passed since they came to live in Egypt that the king, who now ruled over the country and who had never known Joseph, was afraid of what they might do. He thought that some day they might want the whole land and try to drive out the Egyptians, so, children, he

treated them very cruelly, making them work for him like slaves.

They had to make bricks out of clay and straw, with which they built walls and great buildings. They were made to bring water from the river to water the fields, so the grass would grow. As they worked Egyptian men stood near, who beat them if they stopped to rest. They lived in small houses and had poor food to eat and were all very unhappy.

But still the children came and there were more and more of them, so the king did not know what to do. At last he told the women who took care of the babies to kill all the little boys. He wasn't afraid of the girls but he thought the boys might fight against him when they grew up. But the nurses would not do such a cruel thing. Then the king sent his soldiers to kill all the boy babies and the poor fathers and mothers were so sad.

At this time there lived an Israelite who had such a strange name, Amram. His wife's name, Jochebed, also, would sound funny to you. They had two children, a little girl named Miriam, about nine years old, who sang very sweetly, and a bright, merry little boy of three, who was called Aaron. Then God sent them another baby boy just when the wicked king had said all the little boys must be killed. He was a beautiful baby and his mother and father, as they looked into

his sweet little face, said they would never let the cruel soldiers get him, so for three months they hid him safely. Think how careful his sister and little brother must have been not to let any one know they had a dear little baby in their home.

But when he was three months old, it was harder and harder to keep him hidden, so at last his mother made a little cradle, or boat, out of some bulrushes. These were tall plants that grew near the water, with very strong stems. She wove these stems into the right shape and then put mud from the river bank over the inside and outside, which, when it dried, made the cradle firm. To keep the water out, she covered it with tar and then she put something soft inside for the baby to lie on.

When it was all made, she arose very early one morning and taking Miriam with her, she went to the beautiful river Nile which flowed near her home. Here she put the cradle with the dear baby in it among the tall flags (another kind of plant) that grew near the bank. Miriam, who was quite a big girl and who loved her little brother dearly, stood a little way off, so she could see what might happen to him. Then the dear mother, after she had kissed her darling baby, went home and I am sure she kept asking the heavenly Father to take care of him and keep him safe from all harm. In my next story I will tell you more about him.

XXXI

MOSES AND PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

Exodus 2 : 5-9

Picture—MOSES AND THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH—*Doré*

STORY

You remember, children, the dear little baby whom his mother put in a cradle-boat near the bank of the river Nile. Why do you suppose she chose that place? Near by was the palace of the great king of that country and every day his daughter, the beautiful princess, came down to bathe in the river. I think that Jochebed, the baby's mother, hoped the princess would find her darling and keep him from being killed. And sure enough, what the mother hoped for really came true. It was very early in the morning, you remember, when the baby had been taken to the river, so no one had seen him, and Miriam, his sister, stood watching.

After some time the lovely princess came down to the river with her maidens who always went with her. She was dressed in a beautiful gown of purple and gold. Her hair was very long and braided with gold and she wore a golden crown on her head, with exquisite rubies set in it. She

had many other jewels—chains about her neck, bracelets on her arms and a girdle about her waist, set with precious stones. Her maidens carried great feather fans, with which they fanned her to make her cool.

As they walked slowly along by the river, the princess saw the little cradle and wondered what was in it, so she sent one of her maidens to bring it to her. The maiden drew it from the water and when she lifted the cover, there was a baby! He was such a beautiful child that I am sure the princess loved him at once. She knew her father had said that all the little boys of the Israelites must be killed and she felt sure that one of the poor mothers had put her baby in this little boat to keep him safe. She felt sorry for both the baby and his mother, as she and her maidens bent over the cradle.

But the baby was frightened at all the strange faces looking at him and began to cry. Then the princess took him in her arms and tried to comfort him. She was married but God had not given her any little children, so she thought she would keep this lovely boy for her own son. She did not know, however, just what to do with such a little baby, as he was still crying.

Miriam had been eagerly watching to see what the princess would do, and as she saw her take the baby up in her arms, she came forward and

said: "Would you like a nurse for the baby? I think I can find one for you."

The princess answered, "Yes, you may get one."

So Miriam ran quickly, and whom do you think she brought? Why, the baby's own mother! Pharaoh's daughter put the child into her arms and he stopped crying at once, as he nestled close to his mother's breast. The princess said: "Will you keep this child for me? If you can do so, I will pay you for taking care of him."

Just think how happy Jochebed was! She had her own darling child again and now she need no longer be afraid that the cruel soldiers would get him. Then the money that the princess had promised to give her would buy nice food and other things which he would need. I am sure they were all very happy in that little home that night, and that they thanked God for taking such loving care of the dear baby.

XXXII

MOSES IN PHARAOH'S PALACE

Exodus 2 : 10 ; Acts 7 : 21, 22

Picture—NILE AND PYRAMIDS, EGYPT

STORY

WOULD you like to hear more about the baby whom the princess saved? For three or four years Amram and Jochebed kept their little boy, and what happy years they must have been. What merry romps Aaron had with his dear little brother, and what sweet songs Miriam sang to him.

As he grew older, his mother told him beautiful stories of the dear heavenly Father, and of all His goodness. She told him of Abraham whom God called to leave his home, of Isaac and his beautiful wife Rebecca, and of Jacob, who dreamed of the ladder that went up to heaven. Then she told him of Joseph, who was brought to Egypt and sold for a slave, but who afterwards became a great ruler, and of the happy time when he sent for his father and brothers, and the king was so good to them. But now everything was different—the people had to work for the

Egyptians, and the king who now ruled over the country was very cruel to them.

It must have made the little boy sad to see how weary his dear father was, when he came home from his hard day's work. I am sure he would run to him, and putting his loving little arms about his neck, try to make him forget all his troubles.

As she put him to bed, his dear mother would teach her little son to fold his hands and pray to the dear heavenly Father, asking Him to help them and to take care of them. Then she would tell him of the lovely princess who had been so good to him, and to whose beautiful palace he would be taken some day. The princess came sometimes to see him, and I know it made her happy to find that he was not only as beautiful as he had been when a baby, but that he was also very dear and good.

At last she told Jochebed to bring him to her palace. Oh, how hard it must have been for his dear mother to let him go! His father wept, as he kissed him good-bye. Miriam and Aaron, also, cried, while his mother held him close, as she asked God to keep him safe from all harm.

When he was brought to the palace, the princess took him for her own little boy, and she gave him a new name. What do you suppose she called him? Can you tell me where she had found him? Yes, in the water. So she named

him Moses, which means drawn, or taken out of the water.

Little Moses found his new home very different from his old one. That was a poor little mud hut, while this was a large and beautiful palace. There he had his dear mother and his sister to care for him, and his brother to play with while here he had many servants who were quick to do everything for him. But though the princess was very kind and even the great king, also, was good to him, I think he often missed his own dear home.

He now rode out in a beautiful chariot, and people would bow low to him, as they did to the princess, or he would sail with her in a wonderful golden boat on the beautiful river, while lovely music was played on harps and flutes and guitars. He was such a beautiful boy that everyone turned to look at him as he passed and, best of all, he was gentle and loving, and tried hard to please the princess, as he had tried to please his dear mother and father.

He did not play all the time, for he had many things to learn. The princess wanted him to grow up wise and brave, so she sent for learned men to teach him. What are your brothers and sisters taught in school? Yes, to read and to write. Moses learned these same things, only the books in Egypt were very different from ours and the writing, too, was strange. The paper



THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

was made from papyrus, or bulrushes, the very same plant of which Moses' mother made his little cradle-boat, and on this paper the Egyptians would make queer little pictures which would tell what they wanted to say. So Moses was taught to read and to draw these little pictures.

He learned to count, too, just as your brothers and sisters do. In those days the Egyptians knew a great deal about the sun, moon and stars and of these, also, Moses learned. He loved music and I know he learned to sing. Perhaps he was taught to play on the harp, guitar or flute and he may have had a drum as little boys have now. In Egypt were many wonderful buildings and Moses learned how they had been built. I think he loved to watch the weavers who wove beautiful cloth or the men who made lovely vases out of glass or clay and coloured them with pretty colours. Perhaps he learned, also, to paint beautiful pictures, for the Egyptians were great painters and they carved wonderful statues, also.

When he was tired from studying his lessons, Moses would go out to play, as boys love to do now. Perhaps he went hunting, or fishing or swimming in the great river. When he grew older, he learned to be a brave soldier. Once when some enemies came to fight the Egyptians, the king sent Moses at the head of his soldiers to drive them away. He was so brave and strong

that when he fought them, they were driven back to their country. The princess was very proud of him and was glad that she had taken him from the river and had made him her son.

But all this time, though the Egyptians did not worship God, Moses never forgot the dear heavenly Father. He used always to pray to Him and to try to do just what would please Him.

XXXIII

MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

Hebrews 11 : 24-26 ; Exodus 2 : 11-25 ; 3 ; 4 : 1-17

Picture—MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH—

Naehdruck Vorbehalten

STORY

WE heard last Sunday of Moses' life at the court of Pharaoh. While he was there, he became a very wise man ; he wrote books and, as I told you, he was also a brave soldier and helped the Egyptians drive away their enemies. He was so great that perhaps some day he might even have become the king of Egypt, after Pharaoh had died. But he never forgot that he was an Israelite and not an Egyptian, and that the lives of his own people were very hard and sad because the king, who was kind to him, was very cruel to them. He longed to help them and for many years he tried to think of something which he could do.

At last he decided to leave the palace and go to live with his people who were slaves. It must have been hard for him to say good-bye to the princess, who had been so kind to him, and to leave the beautiful palace and all the pleasures he had had there, but he felt sure he was pleasing

God in doing so. He went to visit his people and he found them working hard in the hot sun making bricks. As he stood watching them, one poor man was so tired that he stopped to rest for a moment, when the Egyptian, who was watching to see that all the slaves worked, began to beat him. Moses was very angry at this man for being so cruel and he struck him down.

When the king heard what Moses had done, he sent his soldiers to take him but Moses fled from Egypt and went into another country where they could not find him. He walked a long way across a desert and at last he came to a well, where he sat down to rest. Do you remember other men, of whom we have talked, who came to wells? Yes, Eliezer, Abraham's servant, when he was sent to get a wife for Isaac, met Rebecca at a well. Later, Jacob, when he had to run away from home, met his cousin Rachel at the same well.

While Moses was waiting, seven maidens came to get water for their flocks, just as Rachel had done. When these maidens had drawn the water and filled some troughs from which the sheep and lambs could drink, some rough shepherds came and pushed the maidens away and started to take the water for their flocks. But Moses was angry at the rude shepherds and drove them away. The maidens were glad that such a strong, brave man was there to help them and they hur-

ried home to tell their father. He asked: "Where is the man? Why did you leave him at the well instead of bringing him home with you?"

The maidens then hastened back to Moses and invited him to come to their home, which he was very glad to do. When they arrived, their father, whose name was Jethro, thanked him for being so kind to his daughters and asked him to stay with them and help take care of his flocks. So Moses lived there many years and after a time one of those seven maidens became his wife.

But in Egypt the poor Israelites were still having great trouble. The king, whom Moses had known, had died but the next king treated them just as cruelly, so they begged God to help them and He heard their prayers.

One day Moses took his flocks across the desert towards a great mountain, called Horeb. As he came near it, he saw a burning bush. He ran quickly to put out the flames but he was so surprised to find that, though the bush seemed all on fire, not a leaf was burned. He came still nearer to see what this could mean and then he heard a voice which said, "Moses, Moses."

He was so startled that he could hardly speak but at last he said, "Here am I."

Then God said (for it was He who spoke), "Come no nearer. Take off your shoes, for this is a holy place."

When Moses had done this, he fell upon his knees and hid his face, for he was afraid to look at the burning bush where God was. Then God said that He felt sorry for the Israelites and would help them to leave Egypt where they had been treated so cruelly, and would bring them into a beautiful land. He told Moses He wished to send him to the king to ask that the people might go. Moses was glad to hear that God would help his people but when he learned that *he* was to lead them, he was afraid and said: "Who am I that I should go to the king and that I should lead the people out of Egypt!"

God answered: "You could not do it alone but I will be with you, and when you bring the people out, you shall worship Me here at this very mountain."

Then Moses said: "When the people ask who sent me to lead them out, what shall I say?"

God answered: "You shall tell them, 'The great Jehovah sent me, who is the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. He is sorry for you and will lead you into a good land, where you shall have rest and happiness.'"

But still Moses was afraid and asked: "But what if they do not believe me?"

Then God said, "What have you in your hand?"

Moses answered, "A rod." (I think it was



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the staff, or crook, with which he guided his sheep.)

God told him to throw it down upon the ground. When Moses did so, children, it turned into a serpent, or snake, and Moses was frightened and ran from it. But the Lord said, "Put forth your hand and take it by the tail."

And when Moses did this, it changed back into a rod! Wasn't that wonderful? God told him he could thus change his rod before the people and they would then believe that He had sent him. But Moses was not even then ready to go. He said: "O my Lord, I cannot speak well and I fear I could not talk to the king."

God said that He would help him and teach him what to say. But Moses begged Him to send some one else and then the Lord said that Aaron, Moses' brother, should go with him, for he could talk well, so at last Moses was willing to go.

XXXIV

MOSES AND AARON BEFORE PHARAOH

Exodus 4: 18-31; 5; 6; 7: 1-10

Picture—MOSES AND AARON BEFORE
PHARAOH—*Doré*

STORY

AFTER Moses had left the burning bush from which God spoke to him, he took his flocks back to Jethro's home and told him he should like to return to Egypt to see his people. He had worked so faithfully for many years that Jethro said, "Go in peace," that means, "I am willing you should go and I hope no harm may come to you on your journey."

All through the long years when Moses had been at Jethro's home, Aaron had stayed in Egypt. There he had seen how terribly the Israelites suffered, what hard work they were made to do and how they were beaten. Perhaps he, too, had had to work hard and I know he was sad and unhappy. He often thought of Moses and wished he might come back to help them all. At last God spoke to him and told him to go into the wilderness to meet Moses.

After a long journey he came to the great mountain Horeb and there he met his brother.

How very glad these two must have been to see each other again after being separated so many, many years. The Bible tells us that they kissed each other and then Moses told Aaron about the burning bush from which God had spoken to him and of all that He wished them to do. I am sure Aaron must have been very happy when he heard that God would help the poor Israelites to leave the country where they had suffered so much and that Moses and he were to lead them. As they travelled back to Egypt, I know the two brothers had much to tell of what had happened during the long years since they had seen each other.

When they reached Egypt, they asked the older men of the Israelites to meet them and then Aaron told them all the words which God had spoken to Moses from the burning bush. Then he threw the rod on the ground and it became a serpent but when he picked it up, it changed back into a rod, as God had promised Moses it should. When the people saw this wonderful thing and when they heard all that Aaron said, they believed that God would really help them and they bowed their heads and worshipped Him.

Then Moses and Aaron went to the king's palace. It must have seemed strange to Moses to go again to the place where he had lived so many years as the princess' son and though that

king was dead, perhaps some of the courtiers and servants still knew him. He and Aaron were taken to a great hall where there were immense pillars with wonderful carvings on them. Large pictures were painted on the walls and everything was very grand and beautiful. The king was seated on his throne and when the brothers came before him, Aaron said: "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, 'Let My people go that they may worship Me in the wilderness.'"

Pharaoh (that was the king's name) answered: "Who is the Lord, that I should obey Him? I do not know Him and I will not let the people go."

You remember I told you that the Egyptians worshipped the sun and moon, and other things and did not know about the heavenly Father. Then Aaron said: "Our God has told us to go into the wilderness to worship Him and we must obey Him."

This made Pharaoh very angry and he said: "Why do you wish to keep the people from working? They belong to me and I will not let them go. You, too, go back to your work."

Then, children, he made the poor Israelites work even harder than before. They had been making bricks of clay and straw and now, instead of giving them the straw, he made them go out in the fields to find it. Of course this took much time but if they did not make as many bricks as

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they had made before, they were beaten, so they came to the king and said : “ Why are we treated so cruelly and no straw given to us ? ”

He replied : “ You did not have work enough to do, that is why you wished to go into the wilderness to worship your God. Go back to your work, for no straw shall be given to you.”

As the poor Israelites came from the king, they met Moses and Aaron and they said : “ You promised to help us and instead you have only made our work harder.”

Moses did not know what to answer but when he was in trouble, he always went to God. He, therefore, asked the dear heavenly Father why He had let Pharaoh be so cruel in making the poor people suffer even more than they had before. The Lord answered : “ Pharaoh shall let the people go but he will not do this until I have sent many plagues (or troubles) upon him ; then he will know that he must obey Me.”

When Moses tried to tell the people what God had said, they would not listen. They suffered so much that they did not believe God would help them. Then God sent Moses and Aaron again to Pharaoh and he asked, “ How do I know that your God has sent you ? ”

To prove this Aaron threw down his rod and it became a serpent. But even then Pharaoh would not let the people go. I will tell you next Sunday of the plagues that came upon Egypt.

XXXV

THE TEN PLAGUES

Exodus 7 : 14-25 ; 8 : 1-32

STORY

WHEN Pharaoh had said that the Israelites should not leave Egypt, God sent one trouble after another upon him. These troubles, as I told you last Sunday, were called plagues and if the king had been willing to obey God, none of them would have come to Egypt.

God told Moses to go to the beautiful river Nile to meet Pharaoh. (This was the very same river, you remember, in which the princess had found Moses when he was a baby.) He was to tell the king that if he did not let the people go, God would make the water of the river red, so no one could drink it. But Pharaoh would not let the people go.

Then Aaron stretched out his rod over the river and the water became as red as blood. The people could no longer drink it and all the fish which lived in it died. For seven days it stayed red and the people dug wells to try to find water which they could drink. I cannot tell you how they missed the clear water of the river, nor how glad they were to have it become pure again after the seven days had passed.

Then God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that He would send frogs into Egypt if he did not let the people go. But Pharaoh would not obey Him, so again Aaron stretched his rod over the river and also over the ponds and great quantities of frogs came up on to the land. Did you ever see a frog, children? Perhaps you would like to watch one, if you happened to be near a little pond, and its funny croaking might make you laugh. But think how dreadful it would be to have them in the streets and on the sidewalks and even in our homes!

The poor Egyptians found them everywhere. A woman would start to make bread and one would hop into the bowl in which she was mixing her dough! A little child would go to get into bed and there he might find a frog! Was it not dreadful? The king soon sent for Moses and said, "If you will pray to God to take the frogs away, then I will let the people go."

Moses answered, "When shall I ask Him to do this?"

And Pharaoh replied, "To-morrow."

Moses said: "Very well, I will ask Him and when the frogs are gone, you will know how great God is."

Moses prayed to God and the next day, just as Pharaoh wished, all the frogs died. Then do you think the king let the people go? No, he thought: "The frogs are all dead and I don't

believe they will come again, so I will not keep my promise, for I want these Israelites to work for me."

Wasn't it very wrong for him not to do what he had promised? Then God told Moses to tell Aaron to stretch his rod over the dust and when he did so, swarms of insects came, which bit the people and the animals, and troubled them very much. But still Pharaoh would not let the people go.

After this God told Moses to meet the king again at the river and say: "Thus saith the Lord, 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me. If you will not do so, I will send swarms of flies upon you and upon your servants and upon your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of them but no flies shall trouble My people, the Israelites, so you may know that I am the Lord.'"

But Pharaoh still would not obey God, so the flies were sent. Isn't it unpleasant to have them in our houses? If there is even one in the room, it will often keep us awake, when we wish to sleep, or get on our food, if we are at the table. The flies that filled the houses of the Egyptians were of many kinds and the people could not get rid of them. They bit the animals, ate clothes, books, plants and many other things and did a great deal of harm. Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said: "Your people may

worship God but they must worship Him in Egypt; they cannot go away."

"No," Moses replied, "God has said we must leave Egypt and go into the wilderness and we must obey Him."

"Well," Pharaoh said: "you may go then but don't go very far. And now beg God to take the flies away."

Moses answered: "Very well, I will ask God to do so and this time I hope you will keep your promise."

But when God answered Moses' prayer and took away the flies, again Pharaoh was wicked in breaking his promise and disobeying God, for he would not let the people go.

XXXVI

THE TEN PLAGUES (*Continued*)

Exodus 9; 10 : 1-20

STORY

I told you in my last story, children, of some of the plagues, or troubles, which came to Pharaoh and the Egyptians, because he would not let the Israelites go. To-day I will tell you of more of these plagues which God sent to make the king obey Him.

After the flies had been taken away and when Pharaoh had again broken his promise, God told Moses to say to the king that, if he still disobeyed Him, many of the cattle of the Egyptians should die, while the cattle which belonged to the Israelites should all keep well. But Pharaoh still refused to let the people go. Then a dreadful sickness came to the Egyptians' cattle and many of them died. Pharaoh sent to find out if the cattle of the Israelites were also sick and learned that they were not ; still he would not obey God.

Then God made the Egyptians, themselves, very ill but, though they suffered a great deal of pain, Pharaoh still kept the Israelites.

Then the Lord sent Moses again to Pharaoh to tell him that if he did not obey Him, there should

be a terrible storm, the next day, and that all the cattle which were in the fields should be killed. But Pharaoh would not let the people go. The Egyptians who believed that what God said would really come true, put all their cattle into the barns. But some said: "The sun is shining and it is so bright and pleasant to-day that I do not believe there will be any storm."

They, therefore, left their cattle out in the fields. But the next day the storm did come and, children, it was the most terrible one that had ever been seen in Egypt. The wind blew and the rain poured down, the lightning blazed in the sky, while the thunder crashed again and again. Then hailstones fell and they were so large that they killed the cattle in the fields and did a great deal of harm. The lightning, too, struck the trees and the wind blew off the branches. The flax and barley were growing in the fields and the hard rain and the great hailstones beat them down, so they were crushed and broken.

But do you think the storm troubled the Israelites, children? No, in Goshen, where they lived, there was no wind nor rain, no lightning, thunder nor great hailstones, because God kept His people safe. While the storm was raging, Pharaoh sent for Moses and said: "I have done very wrong not to obey God. But pray that this terrible thunder may cease and the hail stop falling, and I will let the people go."

Moses was always ready to help Pharaoh, so he said, "I will ask God to make the storm cease."

As soon as he prayed, the rain and hail stopped falling, the thunder pealed no longer and the bright lightning came no more. Do you think Pharaoh kept his promise this time? No, when the sun shone again, he said: "I don't believe there will be another such storm and as I want the people to work for me, I will not let them leave Egypt."

Then God told Moses to go again to Pharaoh and tell him that, if he did not keep his promise, locusts should come and eat everything in the fields. When Moses told the king what God had said, his servants begged him to do what Moses wished, for they did not want any more troubles to come to Egypt. So the king asked, "How many of your people do you wish to take with you?"

Moses answered: "We must all go—the grown people and the children and our cattle, also."

Pharaoh said: "You men may go but you cannot take your children nor your cattle."

Then God told Moses to stretch out his rod over the land and when he did so, a great wind from the east began to blow. It blew all that day and all that night and with it came the locusts. You know what grasshoppers are, do

you not? Well, the locusts were like grasshoppers and you never saw so many as came to Egypt—there were hundreds and thousands of them.

When they flew, the people couldn't even see the sun, for they were like a dark cloud that hid the sun's face. Some of the grain—the wheat and rye—had only started to grow when the great storm came, so the hail did not kill it but now the locusts ate it all. They ate, too, the leaves on every bush and tree and the flowers and vines, so there was not a green thing to be seen anywhere.

Then Pharaoh sent quickly for Moses and Aaron and said: "I have again done wrong but beg God to forgive me once more and take away this dreadful plague from Egypt."

So Moses prayed and God sent a west wind, which blew the locusts into the sea where they were all drowned. But, children, even then the wicked king would not let the people go.

XXXVII

THE DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT

Exodus 10 : 21-29 ; 11 : 4-10 ; 12 : 11, 21-39 ; 13 : 17-22

STORY

As the king still refused to obey, God told Moses to stretch out his hand, and when he did so, darkness came over the land. Shut your eyes a moment, children. Wouldn't it be dreadful if, in the daytime, it was as dark as that? The Egyptians could not go out-of-doors nor do any work, for the darkness lasted three days. But the Israelites had the sunlight in their houses all the time just as usual.

After the three days of darkness, Pharaoh sent for Moses and said: "You Israelites may go and worship your God, and your children, too, may go with you, but you must not take your flocks and herds."

Moses replied, "God has told us to take our cattle and we must obey Him."

Then Pharaoh was very angry and said: "Go away from me and do not dare to come to me again or you shall surely die."

"I will not see you again," said Moses, "but about midnight God will come to Egypt, and in every house the oldest son shall die, from the son

of the king to the son of the poorest servant. But no harm shall come to the Israelites that you may know that God is the Lord. Then you will send your servants to beg us to leave Egypt."

Though he heard these dreadful words, Pharaoh would not let the people go. Then Moses called the Israelites together and told them to get everything ready. That night they were all to stay in their homes, and they were to eat their supper in haste, dressed for their journey. This supper was to be called the passover, for while they ate it, God would pass over their homes and none of their sons should die. The people bowed their heads and thanked the dear heavenly Father for promising to take such loving care of them, and then they went back to their homes and did just what God had told them to do.

And, children, that night at twelve o'clock, when they were eating their supper, suddenly they heard a cry and another and then another, for in every home, from the king's beautiful palace to the little hut of the poorest Egyptian, the oldest son was dead. The king sent his servants to Moses in great haste to tell him to take the people, their children and their cattle, and leave Egypt at once. The Egyptians begged the Israelites to hasten, for they were afraid God would kill them all, and they gave them many beautiful presents—clothing and silver and gold.

So the Israelites started quickly, the women

taking the dough with which they were about to make bread, because they did not have time to bake it. It must have seemed strange to see all the people—thousands and thousands of them—starting at night on their journey. There were the men, the women and many, many children, besides all the cattle, travelling on together. It was a beautiful night in early spring and the full moon gave them plenty of light.

After they had marched for a long way, they stopped to rest at a place called Succoth. Here the men put up tents, or booths, which they made from the boughs of trees to keep the hot sun from them, and in which they could sleep at night. After they had rested, they again travelled on and, children, God showed them in such a wonderful way where to go. A great cloud went before them and this cloud looked like a pillar, or tall post. At night it was bright as fire, and they could not only see where to go, but they could be sure God was always with them, by night as well as by day.

When they left Egypt, there were two ways by which they could go, but one led through a country where were many people who might harm them. God knew the Israelites could not easily fight these people when they had their wives and children with them, so the pillar of cloud led them towards the wilderness where there were no people and where they could stop

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and rest when they became tired. Don't you think they must have been very, very glad to be safely out of Egypt, where they had had such hard times and where the wicked king had been so cruel? I am sure they thanked the dear heavenly Father for all His goodness to them.

XXXVIII

CROSSING THE RED SEA

Exodus 14; 15: 1-21

STORY

I TOLD you last Sunday, children, that the Lord led the Israelites out of Egypt along a way where no one troubled them. Do you remember how they knew that God was with them? Yes, because the pillar of cloud went before them by day, while at night it turned into a pillar of fire. After they had marched on for several days, God told Moses to lead the people along by the Red Sea. On their right rose high mountains, which could also be seen crossing their pathway far ahead, while on their left were the beautiful waters of the sea.

Now I want to go back and tell you about Pharaoh. Even after his son had died and the oldest son in every house in all Egypt was dead, he was sorry he had let the people go, because he wanted them to work for him. When he heard that they were marching along by the Red Sea, he decided to go after them and bring them back. He told his soldiers to get all his chariots ready. Each one of these was drawn by two fine

horses and one soldier drove, while another stood ready to fight. Pharaoh started with his soldiers and they drove very fast until they saw the Israelites just in front of them.

I cannot tell you how frightened the Israelites were. They had nothing with which to fight the king's soldiers and they could not climb the great mountains which you remember were in front of them and on one side, while they thought they would be drowned if they tried to cross the sea which stretched along the other side. They forgot how good God had been to them and they went to Moses and cried out: "Why did you ask us to leave Egypt? It would have been better to have stayed there than for us all to be killed by Pharaoh here!"

Moses answered: "Do not be afraid; God will take care of you and the Egyptians shall trouble you no more."

To whom did Moses always go when he needed help? Yes, to God, so now he asked the heavenly Father what he should do. God said: "Tell the people to go forward and lift up your rod and stretch it over the sea. Then the waters will be divided, so the people can cross over."

When God had spoken thus, the wonderful pillar of cloud, which had been in front of the people, went back and stood between the Egyptians and the Israelites. It was growing late and the pillar looked black to the Egyptians, so they

could not see the Israelites at all. But to God's people it was a pillar of fire, which showed them where to go.

Then Moses took the rod with which he had done such wonderful things. Do you remember some of them? Yes, it had changed into a serpent and back again into a rod, it had been used to turn the river Nile red as blood and to bring other plagues to the Egyptians. Now Moses stretched it out over the sea, as God told him to do, and, children, a strong wind began to blow which piled the waters up like a wall on each side, leaving a broad, dry path over which the people could cross. Wasn't that very wonderful?

I think that Moses and Aaron walked across first, and after them came all the men, the women with the children, and the cattle. How strange it must have seemed to them to walk right through the sea and to look at the water piled up on each side! I don't believe they ever forgot that night.

When the Egyptians saw the Israelites marching on, they followed them, driving their chariots right into the same path between the walls of water. Perhaps they thought that if it was safe for the Israelites to cross, they also could do it.

But when they reached the middle of the sea, a great storm came on; the wind blew, the rain

came pouring down, the lightning flashed and the thunder crashed. Then the sand, over which they had been driving, began to grow soft, so their wheels stuck and some of them came off. This made it very hard for the horses to pull the chariots and they began to plunge and to try to run, so their drivers could hardly hold them. The Egyptians were very much frightened and said: "Let us hasten back, for the Lord is fighting for the Israelites."

Then God said to Moses: "Stretch out your rod over the sea that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and upon their horsemen."

When Moses did this, the water all rushed back, and as the morning light came, the Israelites could see the Egyptians struggling to escape. But the water was too swift and strong, so the wicked king and all his soldiers were drowned, because he would not obey God.

Do you not think Moses and the Israelites were glad that God had taken care of them and that the Egyptians would trouble them no more? Yes, indeed, they were and they sang a beautiful song of thanksgiving, which I know you will like to read in the Bible when you are older. Moses and the men sang one part, and then Miriam, Moses' sister (who you remember watched his cradle-boat, when he was a baby), sang another part with all the women, as they played on

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tambourines. This song told how God had led them through the midst of the sea and how He had sent the storm to destroy their enemies, so they need never be afraid of them again.

XXXIX

THIRST IN THE WILDERNESS

Exodus 15 : 22-27

STORY

AFTER God had so wonderfully brought the Israelites through the Red Sea, Moses led them to a pleasant place at a little distance from the shore. Here palm trees were growing which shaded them from the hot sun, and there were many wells of water from which they could drink.

After they had rested for a while, they started again on their journey through the wilderness, the pillar of cloud leading the way. I cannot tell you how strange the country was through which they passed. Ahead of them rose rocky mountains which looked like a great wall. As far as they could see there were only sand and rocks; no trees, grass nor flowers were to be found. They walked over a path made by pebbles, which was now dry, but where once a little stream had flowed. The hot sun beat down on their heads and the sand was blown in their faces.

All was so still that the silence was almost terrible to them. They missed the noises and life

of Egypt, where the people were busily working, or driving about in their chariots, or sailing on the beautiful river. They grew tired and thirsty and the water which they had brought with them from the last place where they stopped had become warm, so it did not taste good.

When night came, they put up their tents and forgot their troubles while they rested. But the next morning it was harder to travel on than it had been the day before, and all that day they found no water. Again the hot sun troubled them and they were too weary to talk or to sing. When they stopped that night, they almost wished they might be back in Egypt.

On the morning of the third day their water was all gone and they suffered from thirst. Were you ever so thirsty that it seemed as if you just couldn't wait to get a drink? The Israelites went to Moses and said: "What shall we do? We cannot live unless we can get water!"

Moses answered: "Just march on a little farther and we will come to some."

So they went on—the poor mothers carrying their babies and almost worn out from heat and thirst, the little children crying for a drink and even the men finding it hard to wait till they reached water. They thought of the beautiful river Nile in Egypt, whose water was always so cool and delicious, and oh, how they wished they could have a drink from it!

But at last, at the close of the third day, they saw some trees and bushes ahead of them and they knew there must be springs there. Oh, how happy the sight made them! They forgot they were tired and they ran forward so eagerly to reach the water.

But, children, when they came to the springs and tasted the water, it was so bitter they could not drink it. Just think how disappointed they must have been! They had been so thirsty all that day. It had been very hard to march through the wilderness over the stones and sand with the hot sun shining on them and now, when they thought they would be cooled and refreshed by the water, they found it too bitter to drink.

They forgot how good God had been to them and they did not ask Him to help them. They even forgot how hard they had had to work in Egypt and they went to Moses and cried out: "Why did you bring us into this terrible place to die? It would have been better for us if we had stayed in Egypt."

Moses did not try to answer the people but to whom do you think he went for help? Yes, to God, as he always did. The dear heavenly Father did not say, "The people were very wicked to forget all I have done for them." Instead He was tender and loving and sorry for their sufferings. He told Moses to cut down a tree which grew near and throw it into the spring.

When Moses did this, the water became sweet and good so the people could drink it. Oh, how refreshing it was! I think the people must have been sorry they had murmured and forgotten God's goodness to them. They called that place Marah, which means bitter, because at first they could not drink the water.

From there they went on a little farther to a beautiful place called Elim, where were a number of wells of water and a great many palm trees, which shaded them from the hot sun. Here they rested for a whole month and then again they continued their journey.

XL

FOOD IN THE WILDERNESS

Exodus 16 : 1-34

STORY

Do you remember, children, how good God was to the Israelites in making the bitter water sweet at Marah? Wouldn't you think they would have trusted Him to take loving care of them after that? But you will see from the story I shall tell you to-day that another time, also, they forgot His goodness.

After they had rested at Elim under the beautiful palm trees and near the wells of cool water, they again began their march. For a time they went near the sea and then they left the water and crossed a dreary plain covered with sand. Back of them rose a long line of white hills and beyond these the great mountains could be seen, looking purple in the distance. Across the sea they could still catch glimpses of Egypt which they had left far behind.

When they first started on their journey, they carried food with them. But they had now been gone a whole month and this food was almost gone. Moses had lived for forty years in this very wilderness, when he took care of Jethro's

sheep, and as the pillar of cloud led the people into it, he must have wondered where food could be found for so many. But he felt very sure that God would take care of them.

The Israelites, however, did not trust God as Moses did. They forgot how He had led them forth from Egypt, how He had made a path across the sea and how He had made the bitter water sweet. As before, they did not remember how hard they had had to work in Egypt making bricks but only thought of the food which they had had there. So they came to Moses and said: "We wish we had stayed in Egypt, where we had plenty to eat, for we shall all die of hunger in this wilderness."

Again Moses went to God in his trouble and the dear heavenly Father said He would send bread from heaven for the people, for He wanted them to learn to love and trust Him. So Moses and Aaron called the Israelites together and said: "When you murmur and speak unkind words to us, you really find fault with God, for we did not bring you here nor do we take care of you."

Then they told the people that God would give them food. As they all looked up, the pillar of cloud became wonderfully bright, so they knew that God was near. I think they must have knelt down and asked the heavenly Father to forgive them for murmuring and finding fault. God told Moses to tell the people that at night

He would give them meat to eat and in the morning He would send bread, so they might know He would always care for them.

That evening, as the sun was going down, great flocks of quails came flying by and they came so near the ground that the Israelites could catch them. They then cooked and ate them and as they had not had meat for many days, the quails must have tasted very good.

The next morning, when the dew was gone, they looked on the ground and saw some little white things. They said, "Manna?" which means, "What is this?"

Moses answered that it was the food which God had promised to send them. Each one was to gather only as much as he needed for one day, because it would be found every morning. So the people gathered this curious food which was like a little seed, small, round and white, and which they called manna. They either ate it as they found it, and then it tasted like honey, or they ground it into flour and baked it, and then it had an oily taste which they liked very much.

Would it not seem very strange if instead of going to a store to buy food, we could just pick it up from the ground? Some of the Israelites were lazy and waited until late in the morning to gather the manna but they found none, as the warm sun had melted all that was left, so they had to wait until the next day and then they went

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out early. Others thought they would not gather it every day and they tried to keep it over night, but the next day it was spoiled, so they found they must do just as God said and get it every single morning. But on Saturday they gathered twice as much as usual and on Sunday it did not spoil, for God wanted them to rest on His day, so none was found that morning.

God told Moses to keep some manna in a golden pot, as He wished the people to remember that He had sent them food from heaven when they were in the wilderness. This pot of gold, filled with manna, the Israelites always carried with them after that wherever they journeyed.

XLI

WATER FROM THE ROCK

Exodus 17 : 1-13

STORY

I TOLD you last Sunday, children, of the food God sent His people. Even after they started again on their journey, they found this manna on the ground each morning. You remember that the Israelites had been travelling through a sandy plain but as they marched on, they came nearer and nearer the mountains. These were very rocky and I wish you might have seen their lovely colours—red, green, purple, gray and black—while among them grew pretty flowers.

But perhaps the people did not notice all these beautiful colours, for again they were suffering from thirst. For three days they had found no water but they did not ask God for it, as they should have done. They quite forgot that He had made the water sweet at Marah and that He sent them food each morning. They began to murmur and complain and to find fault with Moses. They said to him: "Give us water to drink. Why did you bring us from Egypt to kill us all with thirst?"

Moses went to God and said: "What shall I

do? These people are almost angry enough to throw stones at me!"

Where do you suppose God said that Moses could get water? In the very strangest place! He told him to take some of the older men and go to a large rock, a little distance ahead. He was to strike this rock with his rod and when he did so, water would flow from it. Wasn't it wonderful to get water in this way?

Moses took the men with him and they climbed a hill until they reached the large rock. When Moses struck it with his rod, out poured a great stream of water. It flowed down the hill and over the plain until it came to where the thirsty people were waiting. Oh, how glad they must have been to see this stream and how good the cool water must have tasted! I think they were sorry they had murmured and found fault with Moses.

A little while after this some rough people, called Amalekites, who lived in the wilderness, came up behind the Israelites and attacked them. This troubled them very much, as they were tired from marching. But Moses told one of his brave soldiers, named Joshua, to take some strong men and go and fight the Amalekites.

Do you think that Moses, also, went with them? No, he was an old, old man, too old to fight but he did something that helped even more. He took his brother Aaron and another

old man, named Hur, and went up on top of a hill, where they could watch the soldiers. Moses held up his rod and prayed that God would help the Israelites to win. As long as he held his rod up, the Israelites were stronger in the battle, but when he grew tired and let his rod fall down, the Amalekites had success.

Try to hold your hands up, children. You get tired after awhile, do you not? Poor Moses' hands and arms grew very tired, so Aaron and Hur brought a large stone and asked him to sit down. Then they sat, one on each side, and took turns holding up his hands, so the rod should be raised all the time. When the Israelites looked up to the hill and saw Moses praying and lifting up his rod, it made them strong and they fought well. Before the sun went down they drove all the Amalekites away, so they did not trouble them any more while they were travelling in the wilderness.

XLII

MOSES RECEIVING THE TEN COMMAND- MENTS

Exodus 19; 20: 1-21; 24; 34: 29-35

Picture—MOSES' DESCENT FROM SINAI—*Doré*

STORY

SOME time after the battle with the Amalekites, of which we heard last Sunday, the Israelites marched through a broad valley with high mountains on each side. The pillar of cloud led them on and on until there was seen in front of them, huge and dark, the great mountain called Sinai. Here they stopped and pitched their tents in a broad plain, where running streams gave them water.

From the mountain God spoke to Moses and said: "As an eagle, when teaching her little ones to fly, spreads her great wings under them to keep them from falling upon the rocks, so I have taken care of My people, keeping them from all danger. And if they will obey My voice, they shall always be My people."

When Moses told the Israelites these words, they answered, "All that the Lord saith unto us, we will do."

Then God said that He would speak to the

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people but first they must wash their clothes and be specially careful to do nothing wrong for two days, so they might be ready to listen to Him on the third day. God said, also, that He wished no one to come near the mountain when He spoke to them, so bounds, or a kind of fence, were put about it to keep the people away.

The Israelites were very careful to obey God and on the third day they all came out of their tents to listen to Him. As they waited, a thick cloud hid the mountain, the lightning flashed and blazed over it and loud thunder could be heard. Then smoke began to rise, as if the whole mountain was on fire, and as the people saw and heard all these wonderful things, they were very much afraid. Then, clear and loud, sounded a call like the blowing of a trumpet, and from the mountain God spoke to the people, telling them what they must do. These words of God we call the ten commandments and I will tell you more about them next Sunday.

When the people heard God's voice, they were still more frightened. They went far away from the mountain and begged Moses to speak to them instead of God. But Moses said: "Fear not; no harm shall come to you."

Then God told Moses to come up on the mountain with his brother Aaron and some of the older men. When they started up, the dark cloud passed away from the mountain and in-

stead a beautiful blue colour shone upon it, which slowly changed to a bright light like fire. After going a little way, Moses told Aaron and the older men to wait for him and then, with his dear friend and helper Joshua (who you remember was the strong, brave man who fought against the Amalekites), he went on still farther.

But at last he told Joshua, also, to wait and all alone he went up to the top of the mountain to meet God. As he saw the bright light, I think he, too, may have been afraid but I am sure that God told him not to fear.

For forty days and forty nights Moses stayed on the mountain, while God told him just what He wished the people to do. Then He wrote the ten commandments with His finger on two large pieces of stone, so the Israelites might always keep them. When at last Moses came down, his face was so bright that the people could not look at him and they were afraid to come near him. So Moses put a veil over his face while he talked with them and told them all that God had said.

XLIII

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20 : 1-11

Picture—MOSES WITH THE LAW

STORY

I TOLD you last Sunday, children, of the words which we call the ten commandments, that God spoke from Mount Sinai. You remember that the people saw the thick cloud over the mountain, the lightning flashing above it and heard the loud thunder. When Moses told them that God was near, I am sure they listened very carefully to hear what He would say. After speaking of leading them out of Egypt, where they had had to work so hard, He gave them the ten commandments.

These commandments you remember God wrote later on two pieces of stone with His own finger and gave them to Moses when he was on the mountain. Moses carried them down to the people, and they were carefully kept and were often read aloud, so that the Israelites should

never forget them. Do you know, children, that God wishes us, also, to obey all these commandments and that they are just as much for us as they were for the Israelites?

In the first ones God says that He wishes every one to love Him best. He had done a great many things for the Israelites, bringing them out of Egypt and taking care of them in the wilderness. Has He done anything for us? Yes, indeed. First of all, He has given us this beautiful world to live in. We like to look up into the blue sky, across which the fleecy white clouds are moving, and the bright sunshine makes us glad, while at night we love to watch the twinkling stars and the lovely moon.

When the birdies come back in the spring and the sweet flowers first lift up their heads and the blossoms come out on the trees, we are all so happy, and we think it is the very best time of the year. But when summer comes and the leaves are on the trees and so many, many flowers are blooming and the air is so warm that we can play out-of-doors all day long, we think 'tis then even lovelier.

We enjoy the fall, too, when the bright yellow, the brilliant orange and the flaming red are seen on trees and flowers, when the fruits are ripe and the nuts fall. The winter, also, is beautiful with the soft shining snow over all, and then we have such good times with our sleds and skates. How



good God is to give us such a beautiful world, in which we can have such happy times.

But He has given us even more. Can you tell me of His other gifts? Why, yes, our happy homes, our dear mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters and our kind friends. He gives us food and clothing, also, and all that makes us comfortable and happy. Do you not think we should thank Him for these many gifts and love Him best of all?

In another commandment God says that He wishes us to be very reverent, when we speak His name. When we pray to Him, we must not laugh or think of other things, but just bow our heads, close our eyes and be very quiet. Then as we think of what He has done for us, we should thank Him for His goodness and love.

In the next commandment God tells us to keep the Sabbath day holy. You remember that after He had made this beautiful world—the earth and water, the trees and flowers, the fish, birds and animals, and last of all the first man and woman—God rested. He wants us all to rest one day in every week.

When we have worked and played for six days, He wishes us to rest from these things, when Sunday comes, and to spend the day quietly. I think He would like to have us go to church and Sunday-school, do kind, loving things for others and think often of Him. He knew

we would get too tired if we worked every day, so was He not very kind to plan this rest day for us? Next Sunday I will tell you of more of the commandments.

XLIV

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (*Continued*)

Exodus 20 : 12-17

STORY

WE talked last Sunday of the first commandments, in which God said that He wished every one to love Him best of all, to speak His name reverently and to keep His day holy. Then He said that children were to honour their fathers and mothers ; that means to love and obey them. To help you to understand this commandment, I want to tell you a little story.

Once there was a mother who had two little boys and a baby girl. She had also a big dog named Carlo. One day she called the dog and said : " Carlo, take this basket to the grocery store and get me a loaf of bread."

Carlo wagged his tail and came quickly to her, trying hard to say, with his shining eyes, how glad he was to do an errand for her. He took the basket firmly between his teeth and trotted off to the store, where he gave it to the grocer. A note told him what the mother wished and when he had read it, he put a loaf of bread in the basket. Carlo took it and hurried home and

again he tried to say how glad he was he could do something for his kind mistress.

Soon after this the mother called one of her little boys and said: "Come, Freddie, I want you to take care of baby; she is crying and I am too busy to go to her."

"Oh, mamma," answered Freddie, "must I come? I'm just building a house and I don't want to leave it."

"Yes, dear, I need you," said his mother. "Come at once."

Children, I'm sorry to say that Freddie pouted and said: "I don't see why you always spoil my fun! Why can't Tom tend baby?"

He came along very slowly, showing how he hated to leave his play. Don't you think it seemed as if Carlo loved the mother better than her own little boy?

When God tells us to honour our fathers and mothers, I think He means for us to love them dearly and try to do what will please them, even before they ask us. He said if we did obey this commandment, He would let us live a long time in this beautiful world which He has given us.

In the next commandment God said, "Do not kill." I am sure that every little child will think, "Well, I will never do such a dreadful thing as that."

But, children, when Jesus came, He told people that when the dear heavenly Father said, "Do

not kill," He meant we must not even be angry with each other. If some child takes your playthings and perhaps breaks them, it is very hard not to be cross and angry, is it not? But you must try to remember that God wants you always to be kind, gentle and loving.

Then God said that He wished every one to be pure. When we take mud in our hands, how does it make them look? Yes, black and dirty. So, children, if we speak naughty words, it makes our mouths dirty. Sometimes even little children do things they do not wish mamma to see and they look ashamed when she finds them doing them. I hope you will always remember to speak good words and to do only what is pure and right.

In the next commandment God said, "Do not steal," which means, "Do not take anything that is not your own." If you should go into a store with mamma and should see some nuts or berries, would it be right for you to take some of them? No, indeed, they belong to the grocer and unless he should give them to you or you should buy them, it would be wrong for you to touch them. I think you should remember, too, not to take mamma's or papa's things, without asking if you may do so.

Then God said that He wished every one always to speak the truth. Once there was a little boy named Bennie. One day in kindergarten,

he knocked over a vase of flowers and broke it. When his teacher came in, she asked, "Who broke this vase?"

And, children, Bennie did not say a word, for he was afraid to tell that he had done it. At last the teacher found out that he had broken it and she was so troubled. She told him it was just as wrong to keep still and try to make her think he had not done it, as to speak untrue words. Do you remember how brave George Washington was, when a little boy, in telling his father that he had cut down the cherry tree? I think he was just as brave to do that, as he was to fight the English, when he had grown to be a man. I hope every one of you will always be strong enough and brave enough to speak the truth.

In the last commandment God said that He wanted people to be satisfied with what He had given them. Sometimes you may wish you had a large home to live in, such as some little friend has, or you would like more beautiful clothes to wear. Or you wish you had the little pony that some friend owns, or that you might have his playthings. But the dear heavenly Father has given us what He thinks best for us to have and He does not want us to be unhappy and envious, wishing for what He has given to others. I hope He will help us all to love Him so much that we shall try to obey these ten commandments.

XLV

THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 25-28 ; 35-40

Picture—THE TABERNACLE

STORY

WHEN Moses was up on Mount Sinai, God not only gave him the ten commandments, of which we have been talking, but He also told him that He wished the Israelites to build a church for Him. Before this time, when any one wanted to worship God, he would pile up some stones for an altar, as you remember Noah, Abraham and Jacob did, and then stand by it as he prayed. But now God wished the Israelites to have a church in which they could worship Him.

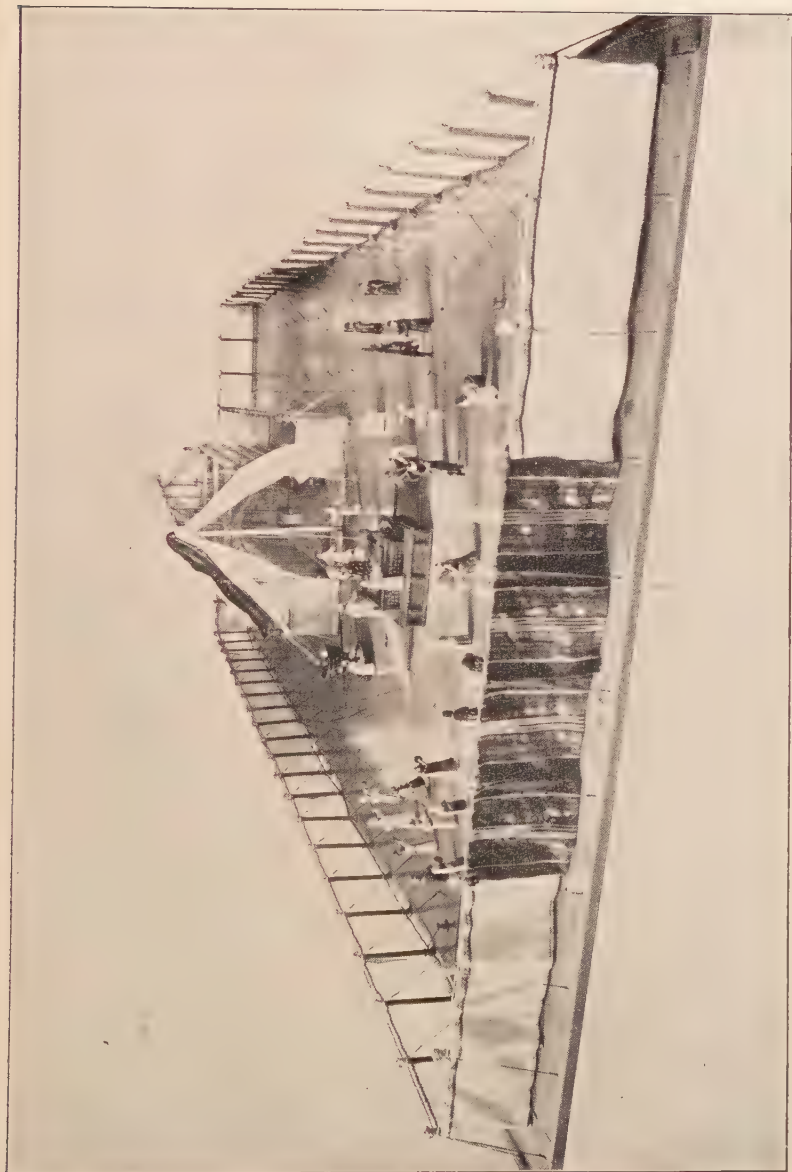
What kind of homes did the people have in the wilderness? Yes, tents, which they could pack easily and carry with them when they travelled. God told Moses that He wished them to make a kind of tent for Him and it was to be called the Tabernacle, which means the Tent of Meeting. Whom do you meet in your houses, children? Yes, your mamma and papa, your brothers and sisters. And whom do we go to

church to meet? Yes, the dear heavenly Father, because the church is the house of God. So the Tabernacle was to be the tent, or place, where the Israelites could meet God.

God told Moses just how it was to be made, and when he came down from the mountain, he told the people what God had said. First he asked them to bring gifts of beautiful things with which to make it and the people brought wood; brass, and cloth of lovely colours—purple and blue and scarlet. They also brought precious stones and bracelets, chains and rings of gold and silver. They were so glad to give these things to make the Tabernacle for God that soon there was more than could be used and Moses had to send them word not to bring anything more.

Then he called two men whom God had chosen to make the Tabernacle and they asked others to help them. They made everything just as God wished and put their best work into it, because they loved to make this house for God. The Tabernacle had to be carried when they journeyed, so they made it of boards that could be easily taken apart. They covered these boards with gold and made them so they could be fastened together without trouble.

The Tabernacle was made oblong and over the top were spread beautiful curtains, the first of fine linen, embroidered in blue, purple and scarlet, the next of a coarser cloth and others of skin to



THE TABERNACLE

keep out the rain. Inside a beautiful embroidered curtain divided the space into two rooms.

In one was placed a chest, or box, called the ark. This was made of wood covered all over with pure gold. On its cover were two angels made of gold, and God told Moses to place inside of it the stones on which He had written the ten commandments and the pot of manna, so the people should always remember what He wished them to do and how He had fed them in the wilderness. The room in which the ark was kept was a very holy place, where only the High Priest (or minister), could go once a year to pray for the people.

In the other room of the Tabernacle was placed a beautiful golden table on which were kept golden dishes, and bread that only the priests could eat. There also stood in this room a large golden candlestick, beautifully carved, which was lighted every evening and burned all night long, and an altar of gold on which incense was burned. Incense was made of spices which had a very sweet smell, so when it burned, the delicious odour filled the room.

Around the Tabernacle was a court, or yard, and about this was a fence made of curtains hung between brass pillars, or posts.

God had told Moses that He wished Aaron to be the High Priest, or first minister, and his sons were to help him and they must all have beauti-

ful clothes. Aaron was to wear a long coat of embroidered white linen, which had sleeves and came down to his knees. Over this he was to wear another coat, or robe, of blue without sleeves. Around the bottom of this were fastened little golden bells and between these were ornaments like pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet. Pomegranates are a kind of fruit which look like oranges.

Then over the blue robe there was to be a shorter coat of blue, purple and scarlet, embroidered in gold, and in front a breastplate, or large piece of gold, with twelve precious stones in it. On his head Aaron was to wear a turban (a kind of cap), of white linen and in front of it was a piece of gold on which were written the words, "Holiness to the Lord," so that he and all the people should remember that he was God's minister and must be holy.

When everything was ready, God told Moses to set up the Tabernacle, so he put up the golden boards and spread the beautiful curtains over them. He placed the ark in the inner room, and the golden table with the bread upon it, the candlestick and altar in the outer room. He then lighted the lamps of the candlestick and burned incense upon the altar. Around the court he set up the pillars with the curtains between them for a fence and in this court he put another altar and a large basin, where Aaron and his sons could

wash their hands and feet. Then he put the beautiful garments on Aaron, the coats of white linen, of blue and of many colours, the breastplate with the precious stones, and the turban on his head. Aaron's sons had garments of fine white linen.

When all had been done, the glory of God, like a bright cloud, covered the Tabernacle, so no one could go in. But after a time this bright cloud stayed just over the ark, in the holy room, and then Aaron could enter the other room each day to light the lamps in the candlestick and burn incense on the altar. The Tabernacle was placed in the centre of the plain and around it were the tents of the Israelites. After this, when the cloud, which showed God's glory, rested over the Tabernacle, the people stayed in that place but when the cloud rose, the people knew that they were to pack the Tabernacle and their own tents and journey on until the cloud stopped again. I think they were all very glad that God had now such a beautiful place where He could stay with them.

XLVI

THE REPORT OF THE SPIES

Numbers 13; 14; Deuteronomy 1: 19-46

Picture—RETURN OF THE SPIES FROM THE
LAND OF PROMISE—*Doré*

STORY

For almost a year the Israelites stayed near Mount Sinai, the cloud, which showed that God was with them, resting over the Tabernacle. Then the cloud lifted and they knew that they were to march on again. It took them some time to pack their tents and get ready but when everything had been done, the priests blew their silver trumpets and the people started. The boards and curtains of the Tabernacle were placed in covered wagons, drawn by oxen, but the ark, the golden table and candlestick were carried by the priests.

Their journey was a hard one and they travelled through such a sandy, rough country that Moses called it the great and terrible wilderness. But at last they came near Canaan. Moses was very happy and he said: "We are now come to the land which God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that He would give to their children. Fear not, but go in and take it for yourselves."

But the Israelites were afraid and asked: "Would it not be better to send some men there first, who shall tell us what is the best way to enter the land and whether the people are very strong?"

How wrong it was for them not to trust the dear heavenly Father to lead them in! But God said Moses might choose twelve men to do as the people wished. They were called spies, because they were to spy out, or look over, the land. Among these were Joshua, Moses' helper, who fought the Amalekites, and Caleb. Moses told the spies to look the country over and see what grew there, whether wood was to be found and whether the people lived in tents or cities. He asked them to bring back some of the fruit and then he told them not to be afraid, for God would take care of them.

Forty days the men travelled through the land and no one hurt them. As they were coming back, they gathered some of the fruits—figs, pomegranates (which were like oranges, you remember,) and grapes. One bunch of grapes was so large that they hung it on a pole and two men carried it between them. When the people saw them coming back, they crowded about them, wishing to hear what they had to tell of the country. The spies showed them the fruit and said: "It is indeed a rich land and grain and fruits grow well there but the people are very

strong and some of them are as large as giants. The cities, too, have high walls about them, so we could never take them."

But Joshua and Caleb said: "We need not be afraid; let us go at once and take this land, for God has promised to give it to us and He will help us, even if the people are strong."

The other spies, however, said: "We can never take it. The people are so large that we looked like grasshoppers beside them!"

When the Israelites heard this, they felt so badly that they wept and said: "We wish we had all died in Egypt or in the wilderness. If we go into this land, we shall all be killed. Let us choose another leader instead of Moses and go back to Egypt."

Wasn't it very sad that they wouldn't trust God to help them when He had done so much for them? Moses and Aaron were greatly troubled because the people were so wicked. Joshua and Caleb, too, tried to get them to trust God. They said: "This is a very good land and God will be with us and help us to take it. Fear not."

But the Israelites were ready to throw stones at them, because they were afraid of the strong people in the land and did not want to go farther. Just then the cloud, which showed God's glory, appeared before them and God said: "How long will it be before this people will trust Me?"

But Moses begged Him to forgive them. Then

God said that because they would not trust Him, no one but Joshua and Caleb should go into the land He had promised to give them. For forty long years they must wander in the wilderness and then their children should go into the promised land.

The people now wanted to go and they said : " We will not be afraid ; we will go into this new land."

But Moses said : " No, it is too late ; God will not help you now."

However, they would not listen to him and so they started towards Canaan, while Moses and the ark of God remained still in the wilderness. Then the people of that country fought the Israelites and drove them away, because God would not help them, for He had told them not to go. So for many years the Israelites travelled in the wilderness and I am sure they were sorry they had not trusted God and entered Canaan when He told them they might do so.

XLVII

MOSES STRIKING THE ROCK

Numbers 20 : 1-13

Picture—MOSES SMITING THE ROCK—*Murillo*

STORY

LAST Sunday, children, I told you how the people sinned and believed the ten spies rather than God. Though He had promised to give them the land of Canaan, they would not enter it, because they thought that the people in the cities were too strong for them to fight against. God told them, therefore, that they must remain in the wilderness for forty years, after which their children should enter the promised land. So for many, many years they lived in tents and travelled from place to place to find grass for their flocks and herds. Do you remember what their food was? Yes, the manna, which God sent them every night and which they gathered each morning.

When the forty years had almost passed, the Israelites came to a place called Kadish and here Miriam, Moses' sister, was taken to be with the dear heavenly Father. Do you remember how

she had watched his little cradle-boat when he was put in the river and how she had brought their mother to the princess as one who would care for him? Then when the Israelites had crossed the sea and the Egyptians could no longer hurt them, Miriam led the women in the glad song of thanksgiving. All these years I know that Moses had loved this dear sister and he must have been lonely when she was no longer with him.

Now I have something very sad to tell you. Do you know to whom Moses always went when in trouble? Yes, to God. Though the people had murmured very often and had been angry with Moses when they did not have what they wanted, he had always been gentle and kind to them and had gone at once to God to ask Him to help them. But there was one time when even Moses did not do what was right. While the people were at Kadish, it was hard for them to get water. They came to Moses and said in a very angry tone: "Why did you bring us into this dreadful place where there is nothing for us to drink? We have no grain to eat, no figs nor grapes nor pomegranates, and now we cannot even get water!"

Moses and Aaron were very sad when the people spoke thus and showed that they did not trust God. But they went to the Tabernacle and there they knelt down and asked God to help

them. The glory of the Lord shone over them and God said: "Take your rod and gather all the people together and speak to the large rock which is near, and it shall give water for them and for their cattle."

Moses took the rod and he and Aaron gathered all the people together. But then, children, instead of speaking to the *rock*, as God had told him to do, he spoke very angrily to the people. He said: "Here now, ye rebels; must we bring water out of this rock for you?"

Was it Moses and Aaron who made the water come, children? Oh, no, it was God, and it was very wrong for Moses to speak thus. Then instead of just *speaking* to the rock, as God had told him to do, Moses raised his rod and struck it twice. But though Moses did wrong, God sent the water, as He had promised to do. It came pouring out of the rock, so there was plenty for the people and their cattle to drink. Then God spoke to Moses and Aaron and said: "Because you did not obey Me, but instead struck the rock and spoke angrily to the people, you cannot enter the land of Canaan."

Even though Moses had done just what God wished for so many years, God had to punish him when he did wrong. I know he felt very sad, because he had hoped that after bringing the people out of Egypt and leading them on the long journey through the wilderness, he might

Moses Striking the Rock 231

at last bring them into the beautiful country which God had promised to give them. But he knew he had done wrong and I am sure he asked God to forgive him.

XLVIII

THE LAST DAYS OF MOSES

*Numbers 20 : 22-28; 27 : 12-23; Deuteronomy 31 ; 32 ; 33 ;
34 ; Matthew 17 : 3*

Picture—MOSES' SUCCESSOR—*Julius Von
Schnow*

STORY

A LITTLE while after God had given the Israelites water from the rock, they came near a great mountain called Hor. Here God spoke to Moses and Aaron, telling them to come up on this mountain with Eleazar, Aaron's son. When they had reached the top, God told Moses to take the beautiful garments from Aaron, the three robes—one of white linen, the second of blue and the third of different colours—the breastplate with the precious stones and the turban, and put them on Eleazar, who was to be the High Priest, or minister, in his father's place. Then Aaron said good-bye to Moses and to his son and was taken to be with God in heaven.

As Moses came down from the mountain, he felt very lonely, for he missed his dear brother who had been with him for so many years. But soon God came to him and said that he, too, was to come to be with Him in heaven. Moses

thought at once of the people whom he so loved and for whom he had done so much. He said: "Oh, Lord, wilt Thou not choose another leader for these people in my place? If they have no one to tell them where to go, they will be like sheep without a shepherd."

God then said that he might choose Joshua to take his place. I am sure Moses was glad that this dear friend was to lead the people. I want to read you the beautiful words he said to him. "Be strong and of a good courage; for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord has promised their fathers to give them. And the Lord will go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee neither forsake thee: fear not neither be dismayed."

After he had chosen Joshua to take his place, Moses had a long talk with the people. He told them that they must always remember what God had done for them and try to do what would please Him. He said, also, that he wanted them to talk every day to their children about God's goodness and to teach them His commandments. They would have plenty to eat in the new land to which they were going and if any poor man asked help from them, they must always give it, because God would bless them if they were kind to the poor. Then he said that when their grain was ready to cut and the fruit was ripe on the trees, they were to bring the first of the grain

and the first of the fruits to the Tabernacle and give them to God.

When Moses had finished telling the people these things, he blessed them and said good-bye and then God called him to come up on a mountain, as He had called Aaron. From the top of the mountain, God showed him all the beautiful land which He was going to give the Israelites. He saw the river Jordan flowing along, and beyond it, the rich fields, the cities and the high mountains of Canaan. I know he was glad that the people, whom he loved and for whom he had done so much, were to have so beautiful a country. Then God took him to be with Himself in heaven.

Many, many years after this, when Jesus was on earth, He went up on a mountain in Canaan and while there Moses came from heaven to talk with Him for a few moments. So though God did not let Moses go into the promised land while on earth, he came from heaven to meet dear Jesus there.

We all like to hear about Moses because he was one of the best men who ever lived. He was brave and strong, and so gentle and patient that when the people murmured and spoke angrily to him, instead of answering them in the same way, he went to God for help. He always loved the dear heavenly Father and tried hard to please Him.

XLIX

THE SPIES SENT BY JOSHUA

Joshua 1 : 2

STORY

Do you remember, children, whom the Lord told Moses to choose for a leader of the Israelites in his place? Yes, Joshua. When Moses had gone to heaven, God spoke to Joshua and told him to be strong and very courageous (that means strong and brave). Perhaps Joshua, who had loved Moses so much, feared he could never be wise enough to take his place. But the Lord told him that He would be with him, as He had been with Moses, and that he must always be strong and of good courage.

Those who are afraid cannot do much, can they, children? Sometimes a little child is afraid of the dark. How very foolish that is, when God takes care of us at night just as He does during the day. I want all of you to be brave and strong, as God told Joshua to be.

The people had been many, many years in the wilderness but now Joshua told them they were really to go into Canaan, the beautiful country

¹ The picture called *The Fords of the Jordan*, in the Wilde collection, might be used to illustrate this story, as it shows the river near which the Israelites were encamped.

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which God had promised to give them. They were near a river called the Jordan, which separated them from Canaan, and Joshua told them to prepare food and get everything ready, for in three days they would cross the river. Then he called the men and asked them if they were ready to fight and they answered that they were ready, and would do whatever he told them to do, go wherever he told them to go and as they had obeyed Moses, so they would obey him. They, too, told him to be strong and of a good courage, for they were sure that God would be with him as He had been with Moses.

Joshua then sent two men to Jericho, the city across the river. Do you remember the ones whom Moses had sent into Canaan? These men were called spies, as were those, and they were to see how strong the city was and whether the Israelites could take it. After they had seen the city, they went to the house of a woman whose name was Rahab.

While they were there, the king of Jericho heard that spies had come to see his city and it made him very angry. He did not want the Israelites to know the strength of the city, so he sent his soldiers to take the spies. But when they came to Rahab's house, what do you think she did? She was very brave and she wanted to help the spies, because she believed that God loved the Israelites and had taken care of them

ever since they had left Egypt. Her house had a flat roof and she quickly took the men up there and hid them under some flax, or grain, which was spread out to dry, so the soldiers could not find them.

As soon as the soldiers had gone, Rahab went up to the roof and told the spies how afraid the people of Jericho were of the Israelites because God had done so many wonderful things for them. She said that she knew they would take Jericho and she asked that her family be kept safe because she had been kind to the spies. The men promised that they would never forget her kindness and that no harm should come to her or her family. They told her to hang a scarlet cord, or string, out of her window and when the Israelites saw it, they would not hurt any one in that house.

Then Rahab, whose home was built upon the wall of the city, took a strong rope and let the spies down out of a window. They did not dare to go through the gate lest the king's soldiers should find them. They then went back to Joshua and told him how kind Rahab had been to them and how afraid the people of Jericho were of the Israelites.

L

CROSSING THE JORDAN

Joshua 3 : 4

Picture—THE HEBREWS PASSING OVER JORDAN—*Doré*

STORY

THE next morning after the spies had returned, Joshua arose very early and told the people to march to the river. There were a great many of them ; the strong men, who were to fight for the country God had promised to give to them, the women, the boys and girls, and the little children. Across the river was Jericho, which looked very lovely in the early morning, with its beautiful palm trees and the many gardens filled with different coloured flowers, while about it rose the hills on which the sunlight rested.

But between the city and the Israelites flowed the river Jordan. In the summer and fall it wasn't a very large stream, but now in the spring it was broad and deep, and its water went rushing and plunging along, carrying trunks and trees and other things. As the Israelites looked at it, they wondered how they could get across, for there were no bridges and they had no boats.

Perhaps the people in Jericho thought they were quite safe because the river was too wide and deep to be crossed.

But God told Joshua that He would do a very wonderful thing, so that all might know He was with him as He had been with Moses. Joshua called the people together and told them that the Lord had said that the priests carrying the ark were to go first, and when their feet touched the water, it would stop flowing and a path would be made for the Israelites to pass over. You remember that the ark was the chest which was kept in the Tabernacle, in which the ten commandments written on tablets, or great stones, were kept and over which were the two angels made of gold. When it was taken from the Tabernacle, it was always covered with a beautiful blue cloth.

Now the priests in their long white robes lifted the ark and walked slowly down to the water's edge. Oh, how eagerly the people watched, but still the water went tumbling and rushing on. But when the priests touched the water with their feet, suddenly something very wonderful happened! Up the river the water stopped and spread out into a great lake. As it came no more from above, the water below where the priests stood flowed on and there was left a broad pebbly path, over which the people could safely cross.

The priests passed on to the middle of the river and there they stood. Then quickly the people hurried across, the men and women and all the children. When every one had passed over, Joshua piled up twelve large stones in the river where the priests stood. He, also, told twelve men to carry twelve stones with them from the river.

Then God said that the priests should carry the ark from the midst of the river to the other side and, children, as soon as they had done this, down came the water, rushing along just as it had before! As the people looked back at the river, they could hardly believe there had been a path across it, over which they had safely come.

Do you remember the path that was made across the Red Sea for the Israelites, so many years before, when they were trying to escape from the Egyptians? Was not God good to make a pathway through the water twice for His people?

The Israelites, after crossing the river, went on to a small place near Jericho where they were to stay that night. Here Joshua told the twelve men to pile the great stones which they had brought from the river, one on top of the other, to remind the people of the wonderful way in which God had made a path for them across the Jordan. He then said: "When your children



OUT INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER-BED WENT JOSHUA'S ARMY

ask you what these stones mean, then you shall tell them how God caused the water to stop flowing and made dry land through the river, so that all the people might pass safely over."

LI

THE TAKING OF JERICO¹

Joshua 5 : 1, 10-15 ; 6 : 1-25

STORY

AFTER the Israelites had crossed the Jordan and were really in Canaan, the land which God had promised Abraham that He would give to his children, they rested for a few days. How glad they must have been to think that they need no longer wander in the wilderness, but that they might live in this beautiful country.

Do you remember what the people had done just before they left Egypt? When they were waiting for God to tell them to start, they ate their supper quickly. That meal was called the passover, because while they were eating, the oldest child in each Egyptian home died, while God passed over their houses, so that all of their children were kept safe. Now that they were in Canaan, they remembered the sad days when

¹ The pictures illustrating this subject are neither of them very satisfactory, nor do they follow the Bible account closely. One is *The Fall of Jericho*, from the Raphael Bible, in the Perry collection, and the other *The Walls of Jericho Falling*, by Doré, in the Wilde collection. I showed only a detail from the latter to my children, mounting on a gray card the centre of the picture which illustrates the priests carrying the ark and a part of the walls, and cutting off the slaughter of the people.

they had had to work so hard, and they again ate the passover and thanked the dear heavenly Father for bringing them out of Egypt and for keeping them safe until they reached this new land.

What did they have to eat in the wilderness? Yes, the manna which came every morning. But now they could get corn which grew in Canaan and as they did not need the manna, it stopped coming. I think they must have greatly enjoyed the corn and fruits and all the other nice things which most of them had never seen before.

But though they had safely crossed the Jordan, there was still much to be done. They had set up their tents in a beautiful place where lovely flowers were all about them but just beyond were the high, strong walls of Jericho and they knew that they must take that city.

One day Joshua went away alone to think of the best way to get into Jericho. He was a brave man but his soldiers had only spears and bows and arrows and it seemed as if they could not break down the walls with these. As he walked along, he saw a man near him with a sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and said, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" (That means, "Will you help us or the people of Jericho?")

Think how surprised he was to hear the answer, "Nay, as captain of the Lord's army am I come."

Then Joshua knew that the Lord, Himself, was to help them and he knelt down and asked him, "What have you to tell me?"

I am sure he was no longer afraid that they could not take Jericho, even if it did have strong, high walls about it. Then the Lord told Joshua how they were to take it and when He had left him, Joshua called the priests and the people together and told them what they were to do. There was to be a long procession; some soldiers were to lead and after them were to come seven priests blowing seven trumpets. Then the priests carrying the ark were to follow, while last of all were to come the rest of the soldiers. They were to march around Jericho once and then go back to their tents.

How strange this plan must have seemed to the people! They had thought they must try to climb over the walls or break down the gates, and now they heard they were just to march around the city. Do you think they said: "Oh, that plan is foolish: we will never get into the city that way"? No, they did just exactly what God told them to do. They arose early in the morning and first the soldiers started, then came the seven priests with the trumpets and next the priests carrying the ark, while the other soldiers came last.

The people who lived in Jericho were all afraid. They had shut their gates and no one dared go

out. Now they must have been very much troubled as they saw the Israelites begin to march. They knew God had helped them to leave Egypt and had taken care of them in the wilderness and then made a path for them right through the Jordan river, and now they feared they were going to take their city. But how surprised they must have been when they saw the Israelites march around the walls with no noise except the blowing of the seven trumpets and then go back to their tents.

The next day they marched in just the same way and when they had passed around the city, they went back to their tents without having shot an arrow or thrown a spear. On the third day they did the same thing. Again on the fourth day they marched in this way and also on the fifth and sixth days. Perhaps the people in Jericho began to think that nothing was going to happen to them after all and perhaps the Israelites wondered more and more why they should march thus day after day. But still they did just what God told them to do.

On the seventh day Joshua told them to march around the city seven times instead of once, so around and around they went ; first the soldiers, then the seven priests blowing on their trumpets, then the priests carrying the ark and last of all more soldiers. When they had marched around seven times, as the priests blew their trumpets,

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Joshua cried out, "Shout, for the Lord has given the city to you."

Oh, how the people shouted and the priests blew! And, children, as the shouts were heard, down fell the great walls, so the Israelites could enter the city. The people who lived in Jericho had been so wicked that God said they must all be killed and their houses burned.

But there was some one there who was not hurt and who do you think it was? Do you remember who was kind to the spies and saved them from the king's soldiers? Yes, Rahab. Joshua had told all the people to look out for the house which had the red cord tied in the window and to hurt no one in it. When the Israelites entered the city, they saw the scarlet cord in the window of a house on the wall and the spies went into it and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all that she had and took them to a safe place, because she had been so kind to the spies. After the battle, Joshua gave her a home and she always lived with the Israelites.

LII

THE ISRAELITES IN CANAAN

Joshua 9 ; 10 : 1-14 ; 21 : 43-45 ; 23 ; 24

STORY

AFTER the Israelites had taken Jericho, the people in the other cities of Canaan were very much afraid of them. Some of these people, who lived in Gibeon which was near Jericho, said that they would try to save their city, so they sent messengers to Joshua. These messengers wore old clothes and sandals which were worn and patched, and carried their things in old sacks, while the bread they took with them was hard and mouldy.

When they came to the camp of the Israelites, they told them that they had come from a city far, far away. They said that when they had left home, their clothes and shoes were new and their bread had been taken hot from the oven. Of course all this was untrue, as they really lived very near. They said that they had heard how the Lord had led the Israelites out of Egypt and had kept them safe in the wilderness and they wanted them to be their friends.

Joshua and the head men forgot to ask the Lord what to do and as they believed what the

men said, they told them that they would be their friends. Very soon after this the Israelites found out that these men really lived in Gibeon, a city very near them. Joshua went to them and asked: "Why did you tell us lies and make us think you lived far away from us when you really live near?"

The men of Gibeon answered: "We were afraid you would kill us, as you killed the people of Jericho; that is why we wanted you to be our friends."

Then Joshua said: "Well, we have given our promise and of course we shall keep it. But because you did not tell us the truth as to where you lived, we shall punish you by making you our servants."

So the Gibeonites always had to work for the Israelites after that, cutting their wood and bringing their water.

Not long after this the kings of five other cities of Canaan, who were angry because the people of Gibeon had made friends with the Israelites, came with their soldiers to fight against them. The Gibeonites were very much afraid because they feared that the kings would take their city, so they sent to Joshua and begged him to help them. Do you think Joshua said: "You deceived us and told us lies and now if you are in trouble, you must get out of it as best you can; we shall not help you"?

No, indeed, Joshua did not say that. Instead he said: "We promised to be your friends and even if you did deceive us, we shall come at once to help you."

The five kings had so many soldiers that perhaps the Israelites might have been afraid they could not drive them away, but the Lord came to Joshua and said: "Fear them not, for I have delivered them into your hand; there shall not a man of them stand before you" (that means, "I will help you to win the battle").

Joshua called his soldiers together quickly and they marched all night and came to Gibeon very early in the morning. The kings and their soldiers had not expected any one would come so soon to fight them and when they saw the Israelites, they were frightened and started at once to run. Joshua and his men followed them and drove them farther and farther away. The Lord, also, helped, for He sent a severe storm, and great hailstones fell upon the king's soldiers, making them still more afraid, but none of these hailstones hurt the Israelites.

When the sun was going down, Joshua wanted his soldiers to fight a little longer until all the people had been driven away, so he said, "Sun, stand still." Then he turned to the moon and said, "Moon, do not rise yet."

And, children, God let the light stay, so the Israelites could see to drive all their enemies

away! Wasn't that very wonderful? After this battle, Joshua had other kings to fight but the Lord helped him, so he and his soldiers always won.

At last there was no more trouble and every one could rest. Then they went back to Gilgal where the women and children had stayed in their tents and there they thanked God for helping them to win all their battles. Then Joshua told the people to divide the land in this new country, so every one could have a home. When this was done, the Israelites sowed the seed and reaped the grain, took care of the fruits and had happy days, because no one troubled them any more. God had done all that He had promised to do for them.

Joshua was now an old man and he was glad to rest with his family in his new home. After many years he became so old that he knew he must soon leave the Israelites. He, therefore, called them all about him and told them how God had brought Abraham into a new country, how He had been with Isaac and Jacob, and with Joseph in Egypt. Then he asked them to remember how good God had been in bringing them out of Egypt, in taking care of them all the long years in the wilderness and at last in giving them this beautiful land.

He then begged them to be strong and brave and never to do any of the wicked things that

the Canaanites had done, but always to love God and try to please Him. The people promised that they would do so. Then Joshua bade them good-bye and went to live with the heavenly Father. He was one hundred and ten years old and all his long life he had tried to do what God wished him to do.

LIII

GIDEON CHOSEN AS A LEADER

Judges 6 : 1-23, 33-40 ; 7 : 1-7

Picture—GIDEON CHOOSES HIS SOLDIERS—*Doré*

STORY

WHILE Joshua was with them, the Israelites tried to please God. But when he went to be with the dear heavenly Father, they forgot the promise they had made him that they would always obey God and they did many wicked things. At last God let their enemies come to fight against them. These enemies were the Midianites, and there were so many of them that the Israelites could not drive them away.

What do our farmers do in the spring? Yes, they plow and then sow the seed. And what do they do in the fall? They cut down the golden grain and have it threshed, that means have the grain separated from the chaff, the outside part which is not good to eat. The Israelites plowed and sowed in the spring, just as our farmers do, but in the fall, when they were ready to reap, the Midianites came and fought them. The poor Israelites had to leave their homes and hide in caves in the mountains to keep from being killed. Then the Midianites cut down the grain and

drove away the sheep, oxen and other animals. When the Israelites came back, they had very little food and only a few animals, so they suffered very much.

This happened year after year for many years, and at last the poor Israelites went to God and begged Him to help them. The dear heavenly Father always helps those who ask Him, and though the Israelites had been so wicked and had forgotten Him, He did not leave them in their trouble. He first sent a preacher who told them how God had brought them from Egypt and had given them the land of Canaan for their home, and how wicked they had been to forget Him and to do so many wrong things. I think the people were sorry that they had forgotten God, and that they promised to try to please Him.

One of the Israelites, named Gideon, had saved a little wheat from the Midianites. He was afraid to thresh it out in the fields, so he took it to his vineyard and there among the grape-vines, where he thought the Midianites would not see him, he beat out the grain with a flail, or stick. As he was busily working, he looked up and saw a man standing near him. He was startled, for he thought that no one knew where he was, but the man said: "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour" (a man of valour means a brave man).

And Gideon said: "Ah, if the Lord really

were with us, we should not have so much trouble and I should not have to hide in this way to thresh my wheat, for fear the Midianites would take it away."

The Lord (for it was He who had come to Gideon) said, "Go and drive away the Midianites."

But Gideon was afraid that he was not strong enough to do this, just as Moses had feared he could not lead the people out of Egypt, and he answered: "How can I do this? My family are very poor and I am my father's youngest son."

The Lord answered: "I will be with you and help you and you shall drive away the Midianites."

Then Gideon asked: "Will you wait until I give you something to eat?"

And the Lord answered, "I will wait."

Gideon quickly cooked some meat and baked some cakes and brought them out. The Lord told him to place them on a rock which stood near, and then He touched them with the staff, or short stick, which was in His hand and, children, at once flames came out of the rock and burned up the meat and the cakes. Gideon was very much surprised and, as he turned to look at the stranger, he found that He had gone. Then he was afraid and fell on his face, saying, "I have seen an angel."

Then he heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Fear not, no harm shall come to you."

Then Gideon was sure that the Lord would

help him, so he sent word to the Israelites and asked them to go with him to drive away their enemies. The Midianites had come again to fight them and to take their grain and their cattle, and there were so many of them that they could not be counted any more than one could count the grains of sand on the seashore.

The Israelites were afraid to fight against them, so Gideon asked God to show them a sign that they might know He would really help them. In that country such heavy dew fell at night that everything was quite wet in the morning. Gideon spread out some wool and asked God to let the dew fall just on the wool, while everything else should be dry. When he awoke the next morning, he went out and found that God had done what he asked. There was no dew on the grass or bushes, flowers or trees, but the wool was so wet that when he wrung it out, the water that was on it filled a bowl.

Then he asked God to do something wonderful the next night, also. Instead of letting the dew fall only on the wool, he asked that this time the wool might be dry and everything else wet. Again God answered his prayer, and the next morning the flowers and grass, the bushes and trees were all wet, while the wool was quite dry. Then both Gideon and the people were sure that the Lord would help them to drive away the Midianites.

But the Lord did not wish the people to think they could do this all by themselves, so He told Gideon to take only a few men with him, that they might know it was the Lord who helped them. Gideon had been wishing he had a great many more soldiers, for there were so many Midianites and they were so strong that he feared the Israelites could not drive them away. But God told him to tell every one who was at all afraid to go home. (Men who are afraid do not make good soldiers, do they, children?) Gideon did this and many, many soldiers returned to their homes. Gideon was very much troubled to see how few were left but God said that he had still too many.

As they marched on, they came to a river and the soldiers stopped to drink. Some of them forgot all about the Midianites and only remembered how thirsty they were. They knelt down and put their heads way down to the water, so they could drink better. But some were in such a hurry to fight that they only dipped up a little water in one hand, drank it quickly and then marched on. God said that Gideon should take only the men with him who did not forget the Midianites even when they were thirsty, but drank quickly out of their hands. Next Sunday I will tell you about the battle.



CAPTAIN GIDEON FOUND HIS BRAVE SOLDIERS READY

LIV

THE BATTLE WITH THE MIDIANITES

Judges 7 : 8-24 ; 8 : 22, 23, 28

Picture—GIDEON PUTS THE MIDIANITES TO
FLIGHT—*Doré*

STORY

WHEN Gideon had sent home all the soldiers who were afraid and those, also, who had knelt down to drink, he had only three hundred left. The Midianites were in a great valley and as Gideon looked down upon them and saw how many tents they had and how many, many soldiers, he was afraid that his three hundred never could drive them away.

But God told him that if he was afraid to fight with so few soldiers, to take his servant and go down to the enemies' tents and hear what they were saying. So Gideon took his servant when it was dark, crept down quietly to one of their tents and listened. He heard a soldier tell his comrade a dream he had had and the comrade said: "Your dream means that the sword of Gideon will drive us all away."

Gideon was so glad to learn that the Midianites were afraid of him that he thanked God and then went quickly back to his soldiers. He said to

them: "Arise, for God will help us to drive away all the Midianites."

Then he divided them into three companies and told each man to take a trumpet in one hand and in the other, a lighted torch with a pitcher over it. He sent one company to one side of the Midianites, another company to another side and he took the third company to still another side. He then told them to do just as he did. When he blew on his trumpet, they were to blow on theirs and when he broke his pitcher, they were to break theirs and shout, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

So they all started in the middle of the night and they went quietly to different sides of the camp of the Midianites. When they had all reached the right places, Gideon blew a loud blast on his trumpet and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

All around the camp his soldiers did the same; they blew on their trumpets and shouted loudly. Then they threw down their pitchers and up flared all the torches. The Midianites were asleep but the loud noise wakened them. They started up and as they heard the blowing of the horns, the shouting of the soldiers and the crashing of the pitchers and saw the flaming torches, they were all terribly frightened. They could not see well in the darkness and as they started to run, they thought that their own soldiers

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were the Israelites and they began to fight one another.

Gideon and his soldiers chased them as they ran and drove them farther and farther away. Then he sent messengers to the men whom he had told to go home and asked them to come and help and they, too, hurried after the Midianites. At last the Israelites drove them so far away and frightened them so terribly that they never came back again.

When the Israelites returned home, they came to Gideon and said: "We want you to be our king and rule over us, and when you die, we want your son, also, to be our king."

But Gideon answered: "I will not be your king nor shall my son. God alone shall be your king and you must do what He wishes you to do."

So Gideon went back to his home and had happy days with his wife and children. While he lived no enemies came to trouble the Israelites; they could sow their seed in the spring and cut and thresh the grain in the fall without being afraid that the Midianites would take it away. I am very sure they were glad that God sent Gideon to help them.

LV

RUTH AND NAOMI

Ruth 1 : 22

Picture—RUTH AND NAOMI—*Philip H. Calderon*

STORY

Do you remember, children, the Midianites who troubled the Israelites by taking their wheat and barley so they had very little to eat? At that time there lived in a little town called Bethlehem a man whose name was Elimelech. Do you know who was born in this same little town of Bethlehem? Yes, the dear Christ Child, many, many years after Elimelech lived.

We know that Elimelech's father loved the Lord, because the name he gave his little boy means God is my King. Do you know that our names mean something, children? Ask mamma what your name means. The name of Elimelech's wife was Naomi, which means pleasant or happy, and at first they must have had happy times together, for God gave them two little boys, whom they named Mahlon and Chilion. But when the Midianites had stolen the grain, Elimelech found it very hard to get anything for his family to eat. And, too, they had to leave their home and hide in a cave when these wicked peo-

ple came. So at last Elimelech said : " Let us go to the land of Moab beyond the mountains. I am sure the Midianites will not trouble us there and I hope we can get food."

It was very hard for them to leave their home and friends and start on their long journey. They had to cross a desert, or sandy plain, and then travel for some time near the sea. At last they reached Moab, where the people were very kind and welcomed them to their country. They had plenty of food and at first were very happy. But after a time God took Elimelech to be with Him in heaven. He had always been so loving and kind that poor Naomi missed him very, very much but she still had her two dear boys.

When they grew up, they loved two beautiful maidens who lived in that country, whose names were Orpah and Ruth, and after a time they were married to them. They were such lovely women that not only Mahlon and Chilion loved them but they were very dear to Naomi, also. For some time they all lived together but then another great sorrow came to Naomi, for first Mahlon and then Chilion died.

She felt that she could not stay in Moab any longer because she was so sad and lonely. She had heard that Gideon had driven all the Midianites away from her country, so she decided that she would return to her own home in Bethlehem.

Orpah and Ruth started with her but after they had gone a little way, Naomi thought: "If I let these dear daughters go with me, they will be as lonely in my country as I have been in theirs."

So she said to them: "Go back now to your own homes. You have been very good to my dear sons and to me but I do not want you to leave all your friends to come with me."

They both answered: "We do not want to leave you. Let us go with you."

"No," answered Naomi, "you would miss your father and mother and all your friends and would be very lonely. I thank you for offering to go with me but it will be best for you to return to your homes."

Orpah cried as she kissed her mother, for she loved her very much and did not want to leave her. But at last she said good-bye and started back.

Then Ruth put her arms about Naomi's neck and I want to read you the beautiful words she said: "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee (that means, "Do not ask me to leave you and go back to my home"), for whither thou goest I will go and where thou lodgest I will lodge (that means, "I will live where you do"); thy people shall be my people and thy God my God."

In Ruth's country they did not know about the dear heavenly Father but Naomi had told her of



"WHERE YOU GO, I WILL GO," SAID RUTH TO NAOMI.

Him and I am sure she loved Him. Then she said: "I will never leave you as long as I live."

It must have been a great comfort to poor, sad Naomi to have this dear daughter go with her, so together they travelled back to Bethlehem. When they reached the little town, the people said, "Why, is this Naomi!" (she was so changed that they hardly knew her).

She answered: "Do not call me Naomi, for that means happiness and I am happy no longer. Call me Mara, instead, which means bitter, for I have had great and bitter sorrows. I went away with my husband and two dear sons and now they are all taken from me."

But I know that she must have been glad that Ruth had come back with her. Ruth's name means a friend and she was always such a loving daughter and friend to Naomi.

LVI

RUTH AND BOAZ

Ruth 2 : 3 ; 4

Picture—RUTH—*Bruck-Lajos*¹

STORY

NAOMI and Ruth reached Bethlehem just as the barley was ripe. The town was built on the hills and as Ruth looked down on the fields where the reapers were cutting the golden barley, she thought of a way by which she could get food for her mother and herself. So the next day she turned to Naomi and said, "Let me go and glean in the fields."

And Naomi answered, "Go, my daughter."

God had told the Israelites to leave some grain in the harvest time for the poor to gather. When Ruth reached the fields, she said to the head reaper, "May I gather the barley which falls on the ground?"

He answered, "Certainly you may do so."

She, therefore, worked busily gleaning all the morning.

Do you remember Rahab, children, who hid the spies in Jericho and whom Joshua saved when the walls fell down? She went to live with

¹ This picture is in the Brown Collection.

the Israelites and later married one of those spies. After a time they had a little boy whom they named Boaz. When he grew up he was always good and kind and it was to his field that Ruth had come. He knew all the men and women who worked for him and he went out every day to see them. On this day when Ruth was glean- ing, he came as usual and said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you."

They answered, "The Lord bless thee."

Wasn't that a beautiful way of saying, "Good-morning"? As Boaz looked over the field, he saw Ruth and he asked, "Who is that maiden?"

One of the reapers answered: "It is Ruth who came back from Moab with Naomi. She asked if she might glean here with us."

Boaz had heard how kind she had been to her mother, so he said to his reapers: "Do all you can to help her and let some barley fall for her to gather."

Then he went to Ruth and said, "The Lord be with thee."

And she answered, "The Lord bless thee."

Boaz then said: "I am glad to have you here in my field and I hope you will stay through the harvest. I have told the reapers to be kind to you and when you are thirsty, take a drink of the water which the men have drawn from the well."

Ruth bowed low and answered, "Why are you so kind to me, a stranger?"

Boaz replied: "I have heard how you left your father and mother and your home to come with Naomi. I hope God, whom you have learned to love, will bless you and will keep you safe, as a little bird is kept under its mother's wings."

Ruth thanked him for being so good to her and then Boaz said, "Come now and share our noonday meal."

The reapers built a fire and then put some of the barley on an iron plate and roasted it. Boaz asked Ruth to sit by him and he saw that she had plenty to eat and drink. Then she went back to the fields. When the sun went down, she put the barley in the veil she had worn on her head, which was made of quite thick cloth, so it was strong enough to carry the grain. Her mother was watching for her and asked, "Where have you been to-day?"

Then Ruth told her how kind Boaz had been in letting her glean in his field and in giving her food and water. She showed the barley she had brought (almost a bushel), and she and Naomi had such a nice supper from it. Naomi said: "Boaz is a kinsman, or cousin, of mine and I would like to have you glean each day in his field, as he has asked you to do."

So Ruth went each morning to gather the barley, and when the wheat was ripe, she gleaned that, also.

Naomi often wished that she could find a happy home for Ruth, who had been such a dear daughter to her. One morning she said to her: "Boaz is to winnow his grain to-night and when he has finished, I wish you would ask him if he cannot help us to get back the field that belongs to me."

When the grain had been cut it was threshed either by oxen who trod upon it or else by men with sticks, called flails, such as Gideon used. This separated the grain from the long stalks but there were still bits of straw and chaff among it, so at night, when the wind was blowing, the men would throw up handfuls in the air, so that the wind might blow away the chaff, while the grain fell to the ground.

The night after Naomi had spoken to Ruth, Boaz and his men winnowed all the grain. Then they had a feast, or party, and after they had eaten all they wished, the men went home. When Boaz was alone, Ruth came to him and told him what Naomi wished. Boaz said, "I will help you in every way I can."

Then he gave her as much grain as she could carry home. Naomi was grateful for the present and she was very glad to hear that Boaz would help them. In those days all towns had high walls about them and how do you think people went in and out? Yes, through a gate. As every one had to enter or leave the city thus, it

was a good place to meet people. The next morning after Boaz had promised to help Ruth, he went to the gate and told every one who passed through that he wanted to buy the field that belonged to Naomi and that he wished also to marry Ruth. The people said they hoped that he and Ruth would be very happy together and that God would bless them.

God did bless them, for He sent them a little son who brought great joy to them and to his grandmother Naomi, also. Her neighbours came to her and said : “ How you must love that dear little boy ! We are sure he will always be a joy and comfort to you.”

Naomi did love him dearly and often took care of him and she was less lonely and sad after the dear baby came. Ruth was so happy with Boaz in her new home and she was glad she had come from Moab to live in Bethlehem with her dear mother. She and Boaz named their little boy Obed and when he grew up, he had a little son whom he called Seth. After a time Seth, too, had a little boy, whom he named David.

Some day I hope to tell you more stories of this David and also of Elijah, Daniel and other good and brave men.

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